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[www.cbrne-terrorism-newsletter.com](http://www.cbrne-terrorism-newsletter.com)

## ASIO explains why Australians can fight for some terrorists and not others

Source: <http://muslimvillage.com/2014/08/23/57146/asio-explains-why-australians-can-fight-for-some-terrorists-and-not-others/>

In the past week, the Abbott government has revealed a new package of anti-terrorism laws targeting Australian jihadists returning from Iraq and Syria that aroused the resentment of several Islamic community representatives. Recently, ASIO chief David Irvine decided to meet with a team of Arab-speaking journalists in Sydney in an attempt to communicate his message, which centred on the distinction between a War on Terror and a War on Islam. The number of Australians fighting in the Mesopotamia plateau has been estimated to be as high as 150. In order to deal with the potential threat posed by these 150 radicals and radical wannabes, the Coalition has promised ASIO and other intelligence agencies \$630 million. It has also proposed a set of measures that would enlarge the already extensive powers of the whole security apparatus.

In the parallel media frenzy, dual citizens and young Australians with a Middle Eastern background have been under the spotlight, to the extent the government is contemplating the possibility of revoking the Australian citizenship of those who join proscribed foreign terrorist groups.

**But what about national armies? A legal loophole—generated by the distinction between terrorist organisations and national armies seems to allow an Australian to fight with the Israeli Defence Forces or the Syrian Arab Army and return home, after having received much more professional training than he or she would as a militant from the Islamic State (IS) or Jabhat al-Nusra in Iraq.**

“That’s true,” Irvine said told those assembled, including your correspondent. “But if you raise the case of the Syrian army specifically, that’s a problem, because the Syrian government is operating under the UN sanctions and it would be a crime for an Australian to break those sanctions.” Whereas in the case of the Israeli military, the unlikelihood of any UN sanction imposed on the Jewish state would preserve it as a free port for Australian volunteers. “The Israelis are not yet under sanctions,” Irvine clarified. “If there were UN sanctions to be

imposed on the Israelis ... and I don’t know whether it would happen ... then there could be a problem.”

The veteran ASIO chief brought along the legal text with the clauses relevant to the ban on Australians wishing to join foreign national armies under UN sanctions. Irvine specifies that “the Iraqi government is not subject to sanctions, so if you have a dual Australian-Iraqi citizenship, you could go there and join the Iraqi armed forces.” The Shiite militias known for committing crimes under the cloak of the Iraqi military are consequently allowed to recruit Australian militants.

In the broader picture affecting all Australians, the new anti-terrorism laws could allow up to two years of retention of the metadata stored by internet and telephone companies in order to make them available to the intelligence agencies. This has predictably ignited fears about ASIO abusing its monitoring powers to violate civil liberties.

At the roots of such concerns, there are actually some disturbing precedents like the so-called Five Eyes Agreement revealed in 2013, when former NSA contractor Edward Snowden leaked documents related to a meeting held by British, American, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand intelligence agencies in 2008. In the views of the ASIO chief, however, Australia’s legal system prevents its intelligence agencies from abusing their powers and makes them different from the American NSA with regards to mass surveillance programs. “Our legal system is different, the rules according to which I can get information on citizens are different from the US,” says Irvine. “We call it the principle of proportionality: for me to intrude into your private life, I have to be very convinced that you’re of concern and that allows me to get that far into your private life.”

The top spy is in a good mood and he goes on explaining the controversial issue of metadata retention on a blackboard. “There are two forms of data: this is the envelope and those are the data contained in the letter,” says Irvine while sketching on the white surface,



“the information contained in the envelope is very important, because if I see a known terrorist is in communication with another Australian, that other Australian becomes very interesting to me for obvious reasons.”

“Now these metadata are actually kept by the telephone company, in the United States they are kept by the government,” explains Irvine, “I have the right to go to the telephone company and ask to look at that particular piece of information and I don’t need a warrant for that.”

A neat presentation about metadata clarified on a blackboard: the message conveyed looked like “It’s all so simple, nothing hidden, you just have to trust us.” In Irvine’s words, the historical curriculum of ASIO stands as a guarantee that its powers will remain subject to the rule of law. “We are not creating a police State, also because we already have extensive

powers and in the ten years that we’ve had those powers [since 9/11] we’ve never been accused of abusing them. We’ve never been proved to have abused them.”

David Irvine’s proud reference to the last ten years stands in contradiction with ASIO’s history, including its kidnapping and false imprisonment of the medical student Izhar Ul-Haque in 2007, who was under investigation for allegedly training with a proscribed Pakistani terrorist group. Even when ASIO did not enjoy these “extensive powers”, between the ’50s and the ’70s, the files the agency opened on “students, unionists, Aboriginal activists, and writers and as many as half a million other citizens” could hardly be classified as anything other than an abuse of power to monitor political dissent. Needless to say, this was not included in Irvine’s presentation.

**Why the U.S. Does Not Pay Ransoms for Americans Kidnapped by Terrorists**

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/why-us-does-not-pay-ransoms-americans-kidnapped-terrorists-266315>

*Should governments pay ransoms to terrorists to free hostages? The brutal murder of the journalist James Foley by Islamist State terrorists has brought this debate to the fore. Here, in a talk given two years ago, David S. Cohen, US Under Secretary for Terrorism and Finance Intelligence, puts the argument against paying ransoms. It was delivered long before the rise of Islamic State terrorists in Syria and Iraq. It is, however, a definitive statement of the Obama Administration’s policy towards ransom paying.*

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In some respects, there is encouraging news on terrorist financing. Since the Al Qaeda terrorist attacks on America of September 11 2001 and the July 7 2005 suicide bombings in

London, the international community has achieved major successes in limiting terrorist financing.



Osama bin Laden and several of his key financial lieutenants, including Saeed al-Masri, Atiyah Abd al-Rahman, and Abu Yahya al-Libi have not lived to see the most recent anniversaries of their most brutal attacks. Their deaths, along with international efforts to combat terrorist financing, have degraded the ability of Al-Qaeda's central organization, its "core," to raise funds and carry out new attacks.

Indeed, over the past decade, close cooperation among governments in Europe, the Gulf, and elsewhere, as well as between governments and the private sector, has enabled the international community to take great strides in defeating more traditional methods of terrorist financing.

The less encouraging news is that while Al-Qaeda has experienced a decrease in funding, its affiliates in the Sahel and Yemen are doing better financially, in large part by raising enormous sums of money through kidnapping for ransom (KFR).

Al-Qaeda's core is not in the position to provide generous funding to its affiliates, such as Al-Qaeda in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) operating in the Sahel and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) operating primarily in Yemen. Instead, these Al-Qaeda offshoots are self-sufficient, raising their own funds and themselves providing support to the next generation of violent groups.

In response to this new reality, governments have had to adapt, keeping one eye on the struggling Al-Qaeda core and the other on its strengthening affiliates.

Today, especially in Mali, but also to some extent in Yemen, we see these Al-Qaeda affiliates gaining strength. And at the root of their strength is the money they have amassed, including, importantly, through kidnapping for ransom. Kidnapping for ransom, of course, is neither terribly sophisticated nor even all that novel. Indeed, examples of KFR date back to biblical times.

Today, we see terrorist groups like AQIM and AQAP, sometimes in coordination with local criminals, take foreign nationals hostage, and then demand that their victims' governments, employers or families pay huge sums of money – and perhaps make other concessions – to obtain their release.

Those taken hostage run the gamut, from aid workers to tourists, from employees of private companies to diplomats or other government

officials. AQIM and AQAP have turned this age-old tactic into a successful money-generating scheme, turning kidnapping for ransom into our most significant terrorist financing threat today.

The numbers speak for themselves. The US government estimates that terrorist organizations have collected approximately \$120 million in ransom payments over the past eight years. AQIM, the Al-Qaeda affiliate that has likely profited most from kidnapping for ransom, has collected tens of millions of dollars through KFR operations since 2008. It raised significant funds from kidnapping for ransom operations in early 2012, and was holding nine hostages as of the middle of last month.

For its part, AQAP has collected millions of dollars through kidnapping operations since 2009, and was holding two hostages as of this past August. And kidnapping for ransom is not confined to these Al-Qaeda affiliates.

Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan has raised several million dollars in ransoms in recent years. And the Philippines-based Abu Sayyaf Group, which relies primarily on criminal activity for its funding, has obtained more than \$2 million in ransom payments since 2008.

What's worse, the size of the average ransom payment is increasing. In 2010, the average ransom payment per hostage to AQIM was \$4.5 million; in 2011, that figure was \$5.4 million. It is therefore not surprising that the size of ransom demands appears to be increasing, too, with AQIM reportedly demanding £70 million for the release of four French citizens taken hostage in Niger in September 2010.

Such demands may also be evolving beyond ransoms to protection money. One Al-Qaeda affiliate was planning to extort substantial annual payments, amounting to millions of euros a year, from a European-based company, in exchange for a promise not to target that company's interests in Africa.

#### **What terrorists do with ransom money?**

Now, as disturbing as these numbers and trends are, even more disturbing is what terrorist groups do with the money they obtain from kidnapping operations. They use ransom money to help fund the full range of their activities, including recruiting and indoctrinating new members, paying salaries, establishing training camps,



acquiring weapons and communications gear, staging deadly attacks, and, as I noted earlier, helping to support the next generation of violent extremist groups.

Thanks in part to ransom payments, AQAP has amassed the arms and recruits to terrorize parts of southern Yemen, and has started to institute harsh punishments for violations of Sharia law, including public executions of uncooperative tribal leaders. Even more dramatically, ransom money is supporting the expansion of AQIM's influence and control in northern Mali, which it is using as an active area of operations as well as a safe haven.

Within AQIM's safe haven, the residents and historical treasures of Mali have been anything but safe. AQIM and its allies have destroyed UNESCO World Heritage sites in Timbuktu, including sacred Sufi shrines. There are also reports of AQIM planting mines around the ancient city of Gao.

And they have begun to enforce a particularly severe form of Sharia law, cutting off the hand of an alleged cattle thief and stoning to death an unmarried couple with two children. In the meantime, thousands of northern Mali residents have succumbed to hunger and disease.

Moreover, it has become increasingly clear that AQIM is using revenues from kidnapping for ransom to expand its reach and influence. As of earlier this year, AQIM was expected to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial support to other Africa-based extremist organizations.

#### **Kidnapping: the top source of terrorist financing**

Sir Arthur Helps once wrote, "Nothing succeeds like success." That observation rings true, unfortunately, for terrorists turning to kidnapping for ransom to raise the funds they need to maintain and expand their operations. Simply put, kidnapping for ransom has become today's most significant source of terrorist financing because it has proven itself a frighteningly successful tactic. Any payment of ransom provides an incentive for further kidnapping operations; each transaction encourages another transaction.

Making matters worse, the success of today's kidnapers attracts the attention of tomorrow's would-be kidnapers, who then seek to learn the tricks of the trade. We know this to be true. In late 2011, AQIM shared the strategies and

tactics it used in kidnapping operations with other extremist groups. This is a vicious cycle. Ransom payments lead to future kidnappings, and future kidnappings lead to additional ransom payments. And it all builds the capacity of terrorist organizations to conduct attacks.

We must find a way to break the cycle.

Refusing to pay ransoms or to make other concessions to terrorists is, clearly, the surest way to break the cycle, because if kidnapers consistently fail to get what they want, they will have a strong incentive to stop taking hostages in the first place. There is empirical evidence to support this.

#### **Why the US and UK do not pay ransoms**

We know that hostage takers looking for ransoms distinguish between those governments that pay ransoms and those that do not – and make a point of not taking hostages from those countries that do not pay ransoms. As a matter of long-standing policy, both the US and UK governments do not pay ransoms or make other concessions to kidnapers.

And recent kidnapping for ransom trends appear to indicate that hostage takers prefer not to take US or UK hostages – almost certainly because they understand that they will not receive ransoms if they take American or British hostages, and because they fear a kinetic response if they do.

Indeed, our information reveals that in 2011, AQIM was planning to target mainly Europeans, not Americans, for kidnapping operations because AQIM believed that some European governments would pay ransoms while the US government would not. That does not mean that the US government abandons its citizens who are taken hostage. Far from it.

Last January, for instance, US Special Forces rescued a European and an American aid worker taken hostage by Somali gunmen, killing all nine kidnapers. That kinetic response demonstrated US resolve, and put would-be hostage takers on notice that they should not expect the United States to abandon either its citizens or its commitment to make no concessions if they take Americans hostage.

#### **Paying ransoms risks innocent lives**

Now, however straightforward the "no concessions" policy may be –



and however committed my government is to implementing it – let me assure you that we recognize the real and painful choice that is involved in every hostage situation. There is, of course, a vitally important human dimension to this issue.

Governments have a solemn obligation to safeguard the lives and well-being of their citizens. Employers have a duty to protect their employees. And the families of those taken hostage are impelled by unbreakable bonds to seek the release of their loved ones.

In that sense, the governments, employers, and families of hostages all face a gut-wrenching dilemma. Not to pay ransoms to terrorists is to jeopardize innocent lives. But to pay ransoms is to help sustain terrorist groups that are dedicated to taking many other innocent lives.

We acknowledge this dilemma – this tragic choice – but believe that so many lives are at risk of terrorist violence around the globe that the equation tips decidedly in favour of a ‘no concessions’ policy.

#### **Other measures to deter kidnappings**

Of course, the United States’ efforts to counter kidnapping for ransom go well beyond our no-concessions policy. They begin before any US citizen is taken hostage, and they continue beyond the resolution of any hostage crisis. To be clear, President Barack Obama has demonstrated that the United States is committed to fighting kidnapping for ransom. US policy is to actively deny hostage takers the benefits of ransom, prisoner releases, policy changes, or other acts of concession.

In Africa, we are working with those governments most vulnerable to kidnapping for ransom, especially in the Sahel. Our aim is to help governments develop the legal and regulatory framework, as well as the operational capacity, for effective anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing regimes.

Put plainly, the US Treasury Department works with vulnerable states to ensure that they criminalize the financing of terrorism according to international standards, and that they are able to identify and freeze terrorist transactions and assets. We do this because we know that the financial tools necessary to identify, trace, and even intercept terrorist funds are vital to combating kidnapping for ransom.

But you need not take my word for it. In 2005, the Nigerian press reported that an accountant for the violent extremist group Boko Haram had been arrested after he made several money transfers that aroused the suspicion of bank officials. Those officials alerted security agents, who took both the accountant and an associate into custody. The pair was reportedly carrying over £17,000 worth of cash.

Here’s another example. Three journalists and their guide were kidnapped in the southern Philippines, having mistakenly believed that they had received safe passage to interview the leader of a terrorist group. A local mayor and his son helped negotiate an initial ransom payment of \$45,000.

As part of a subsequent investigation, the Philippine Anti-Money Laundering Council came to suspect that the terrorist group had orchestrated the journalists’ kidnapping with help from an unlikely source. Thanks in part to the cooperation of bank officials, approximately \$45,000 was ultimately recovered from accounts belonging to that same mayor and his son.

#### **The role of anti-money-laundering laws**

The larger point is that the US Treasury and others’ longer-term efforts to help governments around the world develop and employ basic anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing tools have already borne fruit. Meanwhile, Treasury will continue to employ its own financial tools to disrupt kidnapping for ransom and the terrorist groups that use KFR, including by identifying and sanctioning hostage takers and their associates.

Whether associated with KFR or not, terrorists sanctioned or “designated” under US law are not only publicly identified, but they are prevented from using the US financial system. Many non-US financial institutions voluntarily forbid designated terrorists from transacting or holding accounts out of a desire to protect their integrity and reputations. And terrorists who are also designated at the United Nations are subjected to a global asset freeze, as well as a worldwide travel ban.

#### **No concessions is the only way**

As important as these actions are, Treasury is only one part of the broader US government effort. And the broader US government effort is only one part of the



worldwide effort that will be necessary to defeat kidnapping for ransom.

You see, if only a few, like-minded governments join in adopting the measures I have described – including “no concessions” policies – the result could simply be that hostage takers turn their attention elsewhere, perhaps to the citizens of countries they view as more likely to pay ransoms.

So our goal is not to strengthen only our own defenses, while leaving others to fend for themselves. Our goal is to force terrorist groups to abandon kidnapping for ransom by strengthening all of our defences.

The way we see it, we have three primary lines of defence against kidnapping for ransom.

### **Our first line of defence is prevention**

The foundation for prevention has already been laid. More than 160 countries, including all members of the European Union, are obligated to cooperate in the prevention of hostage-taking under the 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages. But this is as much a practical necessity as it is an international legal commitment. There is no better strategy to counter KFR than to keep potential victims out of harm’s way in the first place.

In the piracy context, shipping industry organizations and navies from around the world have collaborated to produce a set of ‘best management practices’ to help prevent hijackings. These practices appear to be working.

One of the Chatham House papers I mentioned earlier suggests that those ships that have implemented “best management practices” – such as tracking and avoiding pirate skiffs, increasing speed near suspicious vessels and being outfitted with razor wire or high-pressure sprays to prevent unauthorized boarding – may be four times less likely to be hijacked than those that have not.

Reuters recently credited defensive measures such as these as partly responsible for a drop of almost 50 per cent in incidents involving Somali pirates in the first half of this year as compared to the same period last year.

Given this success, it would seem to make good sense to develop a set of personal security best practices for the KFR context. For example, governments should post – and relevant industry and professional associations

should disseminate – accurate travel advisories concerning high-risk areas.

More generally, international organizations, corporations and non-profits should train their employees to spot and evade danger, and insurance companies should continue to work with their clients to identify new avenues for mitigating risk. And all of us must be willing to play our parts in helping to detect or disrupt kidnapping plots and to delegitimize the broader practice of kidnapping for ransom.

Governments can establish confidential tip lines and reward programs and strengthen cooperation among national and local law enforcement and financial intelligence units. Civic and religious leaders in areas prone to kidnapping for ransom can condemn the tactic and work to persuade hostage takers to release their victims without obtaining concessions.

And yet, we must recognize that we cannot prevent all kidnappings from taking place. When prevention fails, our second line of defence is to encourage governments to refuse to make concessions to terrorists. As I discussed earlier, there is no question that ransoms lead to both future kidnappings and future attacks, so we need to break this vicious cycle by having governments, in particular, refuse to pay ransoms.

In parallel, we should consider all other options, up to and including rescue operations where appropriate, to obtain the safe release of hostages. In effect, we must convince potential hostage takers that the likelihood of payment is too low, and the likelihood of a forceful response too high, to make kidnapping operations worthwhile.

Still, we recognize that some ransoms may be paid. When that occurs, our third line of defence is “denial of benefits” – preventing hostage-takers from enjoying the proceeds of their crimes. Hostage takers cannot enjoy the proceeds of their crimes if they are behind bars, or, as in the case of that Philippine mayor and his son, if the ransom money they received is frozen or recovered.

So governments must work with the private sector to locate, arrest, and prosecute hostage takers, and to locate, freeze, and recover their assets. In an ideal world, hostage takers would be denied the benefits of their acts shortly after their victims are safely recovered.



But in the real world, denial of benefits may take time to achieve.

The identities of hostage takers are not always clear, not least because hostages may be passed within and among terrorist groups to complicate potential rescue operations. Meanwhile, hostage takers work hard to minimize their 'paper trail' by dealing primarily in cash and operating across porous borders in areas where the movements of both money and people are poorly controlled.

**Outsmarting our enemies**

In other words, the struggle against kidnapping for ransom, like the broader struggle against global terrorism, is most certainly a long-term effort that will require us to outlast – and continually outthink – our enemies.

To be sure, combating kidnapping for ransom poses terribly difficult practical and moral challenges. Preventing kidnappings in the first

place and denying terrorists the benefits of ransoms if they are paid pose difficult practical challenges. But these practical difficulties are not insurmountable.

The moral question – namely, balancing the specific obligation to secure the freedom and safety of those taken hostage against the broader societal imperative of depriving terrorists of the means to plan and execute mass murder and oppression – is more difficult to resolve.

But at the end of the day, the obligation to deprive terrorists of the financial means to plan, develop, and execute their deadly attacks demands that we find a way to deny terrorists access to ransom payments. That includes, in our view, adopting and implementing a policy of refusing to pay ransoms.

That may be easier said than done, but it can be done, if we build the consensus and capacity necessary to do it together.

**UK plans new anti-terror law to tackle Islamist extremism**

Source: [http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/uk-plans-new-anti-terror-law-to-tackle-islamist-extremism\\_956802.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/uk-plans-new-anti-terror-law-to-tackle-islamist-extremism_956802.html)

**The UK is planning a tougher law to tackle the threat of Islamist terrorism in the country in the wake of the recent beheading of a US journalist by a suspected British Islamic State (IS) militant in Iraq.**

UK Home Secretary Theresa May has underlined changes to law which would also mean that naturalised Britons who are fighting overseas can be stripped of their citizenship and excluded.

"We will be engaged in this struggle for many years, probably decades.

We must give ourselves all the legal powers we need to prevail," May wrote in an article for the 'Daily Telegraph'.

"I am looking again at the case for new banning orders for extremist groups that fall short of the legal threshold for terrorist proscription, as well as for new civil powers to target extremists who seek to radicalise others.

**"People who insist on travelling to fight in Syria and Iraq will be investigated by the police and security services. For those who have dual nationality, I have the power to**

**strip them of their citizenship and exclude them from the country.**

**"Following the recent Immigration Act, I can, in certain circumstances, remove citizenship from naturalised Britons who are fighting overseas and exclude them too," she said.**

The new measures are aimed at curtailing the activities of radical Islamist preachers whose extreme rhetoric currently does not constitute a crime.

While details are yet to emerge, the new power

will be designed to restrict extremists' behaviour and language. As with an anti-social behaviour orders (ASBO), it could result in a criminal conviction carrying a jail term if breached.

May is also planning to make it illegal for British citizens to join extremist groups that preach violent views, but are not directly involved in terrorism.

The move is aimed at tackling British extremists in the wake of





the killing of US journalist James Foley by a jihadist with an English accent.

State (IS) published a video of the moments before and after Foley was beheaded.



British police and security services are trying to identify the suspected British man who appeared in footage. Extremist group Islamic

Unconfirmed reports suggest the man in the video is from London or south-east England and may have guarded IS captives.

**Texas Gov. Rick Perry's Theory About Islamic Terrorists Just Got Called 'Absurd'**

Source: <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/08/23/texas-gov-rick-perrys-theory-about-islamic-terrorists-just-got-called-absurd/>

Texas Gov. Rick Perry's recent statements about the possibility that Islamic fundamentalists could be entering the U.S. from Mexico were called "absurd" by Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Jose Antonio Meade.

**TRUE**



Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks during a GOP event August 23, 2014 in Stratham, New Hampshire. (Image source: Scott Eisen/Getty Images)

**FALSE**

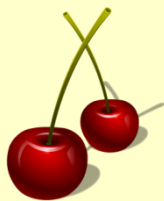


Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Antonio Meade. (Image source: AFP/Cris Bouroncle/Getty Images)



Perry last week asserted that “there is a very real possibility” that Islamic terrorists could be entering the United States from Mexico across what he called an “unsecured” Southwest border. But Perry added that there is “no clear evidence” that they are.

Meade said in a statement Saturday that Perry’s statements were based on “beliefs, speculation and absolutely unfounded and absurd analysis.”



**EDITOR’S COMMENT:** Defensing your country is one thing. Speaking nonsense is another! In a country suffering internal narcoterrorism while thousands of illegal immigrants infiltrate US borders almost on daily basis how difficult it is for a terrorist to follow same paths and enter neighboring country? In Greece we say: *“When you hear about many cherries, get a small basket!”*

► Read also Update in p.53

**Send in U.S. ground troops to end Islamic State terror**

By Whitt Flora

Source: <http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/opinion/2014/08/23/send-us-ground-troops-end-islamic-state-terror/14468535/>



President Barack Obama is now reaping the whirlwind for his feckless and sometimes politically motivated strategy of leading from behind in the Mideast, North Africa and Eastern Europe.

The good news is that his decision to use U.S. air power to protect the Yazidi people from death and torture by Islamic State fanatics has allowed Kurdish and Iraqi soldiers to recapture the critical Mosul Dam and sent the Islamist terrorists reeling backward.

Yet the president in a recent press conference reiterated his vow that air strikes are part of a “limited action” and that no U.S. combat troops will be put on the ground.

Yet U.S. special forces – by anyone’s reckoning our crack combat troops – already are on the ground, advising the Kurds and coordinating the precision strikes by our F-16 and F-18 jets on the armored vehicles Islamic State fighters captured from Iraq forces fleeing Mosul in July.

The success of the air strikes demonstrates that the Islamic State is not a cohesive fighting force but merely a rag-tag band of bullies capable of terrorizing ill-equipped resistance fighters and unarmed civilians.

It’s time for Obama to seize the moment and continue to use our warplanes to annihilate the Islamic State forces threatening Baghdad as well as their concentrations across a wide swath of Syria.

To finish this vitally important task, Obama will have to put American boots on the ground – about 20,000 crack troops equipped with 100

or so tanks could handle the task easily with available air support.

The assessment by our leading defense intelligence experts that the Islamic State constitutes a far more dangerous threat to our homeland and the continent of Europe than al-Qaida ever did is correct.

**Its ranks include many jihadists from America and Europe, who speak fluent English and can easily bypass tightened airport security and enter our country by crossing our “open border” with Mexico.**

Once inside the U.S., their expertise at bomb-making and their willingness to sacrifice their lives in suicide missions allows them to perpetrate horrors that will make the events of 9-11 seem like mere child’s play.

Now is the time for Obama to seriously ponder the advice of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who steeled President George H.W. Bush’s resolve to rollback Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Shortly after Hussein’s move, Bush reviewed the situation with the Iron Lady, and Thatcher urged swift and resolute action, cautioning him “don’t go wobbly on me now, George.”

That, Thatcher said later, is the lesson of the 20th century. “If an aggressor gets away with it, others will want to get away with it too, so he must be stopped and turned back. You cannot let him gain from his aggression.”

Obama’s premature removal of U.S. troops from Iraq three years ago was based on his perception that most Americans were “war weary” and wanted a quick and easy peace.



But the U.S – like it or not – is still the world’s leader, the one indispensable nation in a rudderless world.

It’s time for the president to lead, not follow public opinion polls.

In wiping out the butchers and torturers of the Islamic State, he will restore America’s leadership in today’s mad, mad world. If Thatcher’s words don’t stiffen his resolve, Mr. Obama should look to the great Democratic

presidents of the last century – Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy.

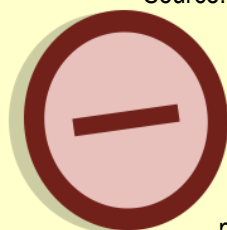
All stood up for global democracy against the tyrants of their day and all rank highly in any list of U.S. presidents. Obama can enhance his reputation before he leaves office, by seizing the moment and obliterating one of the most dastardly terrorist groups in human history.

*Whitt Flora, an independent journalist, is the former chief congressional correspondent for Aviation & Space Technology Magazine and former Washington correspondent for the Columbus Dispatch.*

### US should not send in troops to end Islamic State terror

By James Jay Carafano

Source: <http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/opinion/2014/08/23/us-send-troops-end-islamic-state-terror/14467913/>



**The best way to start winning a war is to stop losing.** That axiom certainly applies to what’s going on in Iraq. But, that said, there is no place for American brigades in this battle.

Yes, Americans have a huge stake in preventing al-Qaida’s cousin from setting up a brutal caliphate in Iraq.

The Middle East is a crossroads of the world. If unchecked, the malevolent influence of the Islamic State could spiral into a sectarian conflict engulfing the entire region.

**By some estimates, there are now more than 10,000 foreign fighters in Iraq, including more than 3,000 from the U.S. and other Western nations.** These fighters may, in the future, be reassigned to return home and wage terrorist campaigns. No matter how you slice it, the longer a terrorist state stands in Iraq, the bigger the problem it poses to the world and to us.

Thus, America has every reason to act. The question is: How? How best to help restore peace, stability, and the prospect of a better future to the people of Iraq?

The answer to that question does not require massive American ground forces on Iraqi soil. That’s not because Americans are “sick and tired of war.” Americans don’t like wars – and never have. Yet we fight when we have to. Americans are resilient and practical people. If there is a war to be won and our leaders lay out sensible reasons to fight and a practical,

suitable and feasible way to win, Americans will march to the sound of the trumpets.

But not every crisis needs to be handled by sending in the Marines. In this case, the U.S. has practical options that fit well with our vital national interests and can help relieve the growing humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

Washington should focus on marginalizing the destructive influence of Iran, choking off the pipeline that feeds foreign fighters to the Islamic State and setting the conditions that will allow the Iraqis to take back their country.

The Iranian regime is already overstretched. With a nuclear “deal” nowhere in sight, the U.S. has every reason to reinvigorate the sanctions regime against Tehran. This will force them to end their expensive forays into Iraq.

To halt the flow of foreign fighters, the U.S. should focus on disrupting pipeline operations in Turkey and other “countries of transit” where fighters stage to move in and out of the Syria-Iraq theatre.

The rest of the solution lies in helping native assets on the ground do their jobs better. Kurdish security forces and volunteers are more than willing and capable of defending themselves.

What they need is rapid, effective support from the U.S. and other friends and allies. In the south, the Iraq military is still a force to be reckoned with.

What’s needed in both areas are air support, skilled advisors,



intelligence gathering, ammo and other supplies.

The U.S. can help with all of that. And it should also keep working diplomatically to help Tehran's sectarian, malfunctioning government get its act together.

The U.S. also needs to help nearby Jordan, which has borne the brunt of housing more than 600,000 registered refugees from Syria. Strained by that immense burden, Amman now finds itself in the crosshairs of the Islamic State. Driving those fighters from the field

requires American support, but not an American invasion.

Once the dual dangers of the Islamic State and Iran are rolled back, there might well be a role for an international force in Iraq to help stabilize things while the nation rebuilds.

This is a role that U.S. forces would have played, had they not been precipitously withdrawn in 2011. The scope and composition of that international force is something a farsighted leader might want to start thinking about. But for now, Washington must focus primarily on how to stop losing.

*James Jay Carafano, a 25-year Army veteran, is vice president of Defense and Foreign Policy Studies for The Heritage Foundation, (heritage.org), a conservative think-tank on Capitol Hill.*



**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** I think there is no winner in this debate! At the same time it would be interesting to read about a similar debate with EU counterparts! It is easy to debate having in mind only rich oil sources than been in close proximity with the imported terrorist potential... Also it would be nice – from time to time – to read a statement like: "Yes, we f... up in Iraq! We should have done it much-much better!" Because history is a circle and now we are steadily approaching the tail of things happened in the last few decades...

**Wake up civilized society!**

ISIS virus is now affecting children...



 **Syricide**  
@Syricide

Words fail me.

#ISIS #childabuse  
pic.twitter.com/9cEGKV6vNw

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RETWEETS: 24    FAVORITES: 6

9:27 AM - 22 Aug 2014

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**Boko Haram leader proclaims ‘Islamic caliphate’ in Nigeria**

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/08/boko-haram-leader-proclaims-islamic-caliphate-nigeria/#sthash.mqKinGlm.dpuf>

August 24 – Boko Haram’s leader said he has created an Islamic caliphate in a northeast Nigeria town seized by the insurgents earlier this month, in a video obtained by AFP on Sunday.

**“Thanks be to Allah who gave victory to our brethren in (the town of) Gwoza and made it part of the Islamic caliphate,”** Abubakar Shekau said in the 52-minute video.



He declared that Gwoza, in Borno state, now has “nothing to do with Nigeria”.  
 “By the grace of Allah we will not leave the town. We have come to stay,” said Shekau, who has been designated a global terrorist by the United States and sanctioned by the UN Security Council.  
 The United Nations humanitarian office (OCHA) earlier this month confirmed reports that Gwoza was under rebel control.

Boko Haram is also believed to be in control of other areas near Gwoza in southern Borno, as well as large swathes of territory in northern Borno and at least one town in neighbouring Yobe state.

Mapping the precise areas which have fallen into Islamist hands is nearly impossible. There are few humanitarian workers on the ground in the northeast, travel is dangerous and the region, which has been under a state of emergency since May of last year, has poor mobile phone coverage.

Experts have described Boko Haram’s gains in recent weeks as unprecedented, saying the group was closer than ever to achieving its goal of carving out a strict Islamic state across northern Nigeria.

But many analysts believe the military has the capacity to reverse the insurgents’ advance.  
**Soldiers this week refused to deploy to Gwoza without better weapons in an apparent mutiny.**

**British Ex-Rapper ID'd as Jihadist Who Beheaded Foley**

Source: <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/bary-rapper-behead-foley/2014/08/23/id/590502/>

A 23-year-old British former rapper was identified on Saturday by British security officials as the man suspected of beheading American journalist James Foley, according to news reports.

Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, who is said to be known by Islamic State members as "Jihadi John" because of his British accent, was identified by unnamed British intelligence sources as the masked terrorist standing by Foley in a video ISIS posted on the Internet of the execution, **The Sunday Times** of London reports.

Prior to release of the Foley death video, Bary had posted a photo of himself on Twitter holding a severed head.



He was identified by the British Security Service and the Secret Intelligence Service, the Times reports, citing sources it did not identify.



Bary, whose music has been played on BBC radio, left his family's home in West London (photo – right) last year to go to Syria, **The Telegraph** reports. He had a similar build and skin tone as the jihadist in the video, British authorities said.

For ISIS, Bary is fighting under the name Abu Kalashnikov, **the London Evening Standard** reports.

The sources provided no other information to the news organizations.

According to the Evening Standard, Bary is the son of high-profile al-Qaida terror suspect Adel Abdul Bary, the Egyptian militant who was extradited to the United States in 2012 over allegations that he masterminded the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in East Africa.

Foley, 40, of Rochester, N.H., was kidnapped on Nov. 22, 2012, in northern Syria. He had earlier been kidnapped and released in Libya.

**Islamic State forcibly circumcises Christian men, sells 700 Yazidi women**

Source: <http://beforeitsnews.com/politics/2014/08/isis-sold-700-yazidi-women-for-150-each-in-a-public-slave-auction-in-mosul-women-held-in-cages-2645358.html>

**Circumcision:** "Circumcision is obligatory (for every male and female) (by cutting off the piece of skin on the glans of the penis of the male, but circumcision of the female is by cutting out the *bazr* 'clitoris' [this is called *khufaadh* 'female circumcision'])." — *Umdat al-Salik* 4.3, translated by Mark Durie, [The Third Choice](#), p. 64



**Sex slavery:** "Certainly will the believers have succeeded: They who are during their prayer humbly submissive, and they who turn away from ill speech, and they who are observant of zakah, and they who guard their private parts except from their wives or those their right hands possess, for indeed, they will not be blamed" (Qur'an 23:1-6).

"ISIS Forcefully Circumcised

Assyrian Christian Men in Mosul, Sold 700 Yazidi Women," AINA, August 18, 2014

The Tunisia Daily is reporting that the Islamic State (ISIS) forcibly circumcised Assyrian men in Mosul, without anesthesia. The report does not specify the number of men that were affected but does state that it was an organized mass circumcision. ISIS has ordered the circumcision of all Christian children and adults who remain in Mosul.



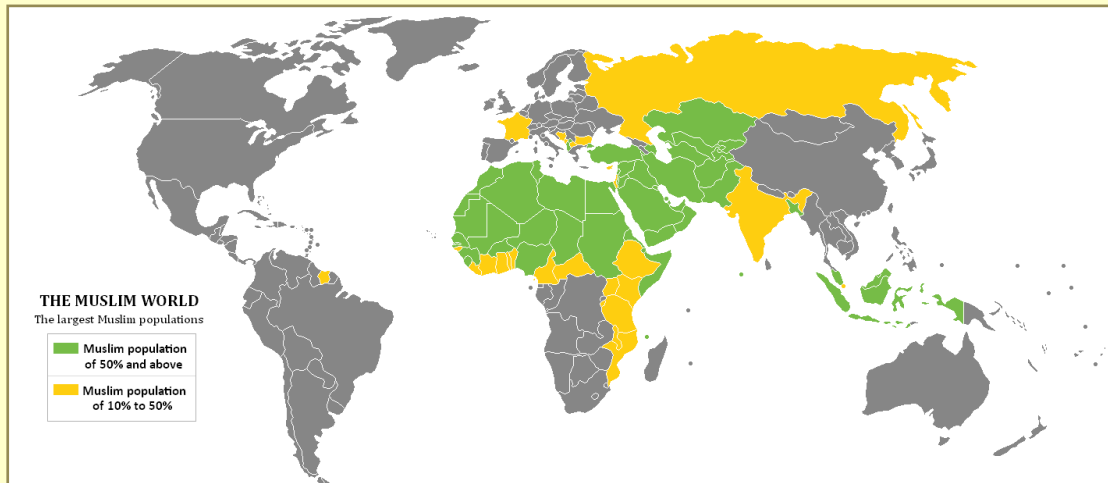
Very few Assyrian Christians stayed in Mosul after ISIS gave them a deadline to convert, pay *jizya*, leave or die.

The report also states that ISIS sold 700 Yazidi women for \$150 each in a public slave auction in Mosul.

**Islam’s silent majority: moderate voices drowned out by extremists**

By Ali Mamouri

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140825-islam-s-silent-majority-moderate-voices-drowned-out-by-extremists>



Stretching from North Africa to East Asia, many Muslims are engaged in a life-and-death tussle with extremists who are bent on extinguishing the diversity of opinions within the Muslim community. Atrocities perpetrated by so-called Islamists grab the headlines: Boko Haram and slavery markets, the genocide of minorities and videotaped executions of westerners by Islamic State (IS) militants. In addition to these atrocities, more mundane human rights violations are routinely carried out by theocratic regimes in Saudi Arabia and Iran. But what about the rest of the Islamic community? Why have their voices remained unheard?

**There exists Islams, not Islam**

Incorrect generalizations and minimization of Muslims are offered up in explanation of every new terrorist atrocity. However, the reality is different from this perception: there exists more than one Islamic faith.

Islam is an umbrella term, which covers multiple differences within the religion. While Muslims hold similar beliefs concerning Allah, the prophet Muhammad, and the holy Quran, a wide diversity exists when it comes to the details and interpretation of religious doctrines. Tunisian Muslim scholar Abdul Majid al-Sharafi described this phenomenon as the “municipality of Islam.”

Diversity of opinion is not a recent feature of Islam; evidence of broad shades of opinion can be traced back to its origins. But today the global Salafist movement, funded greatly by the Saudi regime and other sources, has great mosques, institutes, universities and schools.

Its strong organization and powerful media outlets enable them to publicly occupy most of the Muslim world and parts of Muslim communities in the West.

**The Quran and terrorism**

The Quran is typically cited as the ultimate source of terrorism and extremism among Muslims. This inaccuracy is based on cherry-picking selected verses; favorable words are accentuated while contradictory verses are ignored.

The reality is that the Quran — like the Bible and many other sacred books — uses religious language that is open to multiple interpretations. Many verses that could be seen as motivating violence can also be found in the Bible.

Muslims, like Jews and Christians, have a variety of interpretations of these texts. The



word “jihad,” for example, is understood by Sufist Muslims as an esoteric term for fighting the evil instincts inside the human soul to gain ethical virtue.

Muslim scholars are also not in agreement on the authority of the holy text. Salafists claim that the apparent meaning of the Quran must be followed. Other schools of thought believe that this very simplistic view collides with the long historical distance between the revelation of the Quran and today, which makes the interpretation of the Quran difficult and requiring great expertise.

Many Muslim scholars, such as Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid, Muhammad Arkoun, Abdol Karim Soroush, and Mujtahid Shabistari, believe that the Quran is not the words of Allah directly, but rather is the expression of Muhammad from his spiritual experience. For Muslims, this opinion opens the door for criticism of holy text and allows them to not obey parts of the Quran that are considered historical and not belonging to the core of Islam.

The same situation exists in dealing with Islamic history and tradition. For example, many Muslims do not consider the Islamic conquests that occurred after Muhammad as a religious action and criticize them strongly.

#### Is sharia law dangerous?

When people hear the term sharia law, what springs to mind are images of beheading, stoning, lashing, and amputations in the name of Islam. While these do form a small part of sharia, again there exists a wide diversity of interpretations of sharia law among Muslims.

Sharia law includes the religious lifestyle of Muslims in both personal and social spheres. A significant part of it is acts of worship, personal status law, and other regulations, including dietary restrictions concerning food and drink.

Sharia's most controversial element is the Islamic punishment law, which not all Muslims agree on. Some Muslim sects like Ismailism believe that sharia law is no longer valid. For them, sharia is just the ethical principles of Islam, which are mostly the same as other religions.

Many other scholars, not just today but even in the first centuries of Islam, believe that wide sections of sharia are not essential parts of Islam and can be disregarded — just as happened with the Jewish Torah, which is not dissimilar to its Islamic equivalent. The traditional Shi'ite opinion is that their imams have banned the political and juridical parts of sharia, and no-one has the authority to revive these laws today.

What is agreed is that an overwhelming majority of the Muslim population has nothing to do with terrorism. However, they are under pressure from small but powerful extremist groups and religious regimes. The silent majority of Muslims therefore shouldn't be blamed for these people; they are instead victims of radical Islam themselves.

Islam should not be considered from the perspective of fundamentalism as, in the end, this will strengthen the extremists' position. Rather, it should be understood by opening a dialogue, supporting, and co-operating with the moderates who offer a different understanding of Islam.

*Ali Mamouri is Ph.D. Candidate at the Institute for Social Justice at Australian Catholic University.*

### U.S., European policies on paying ransom for kidnapped citizens not in sync

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140825-u-s-european-policies-on-paying-ransom-for-kidnaped-citizens-not-in-sync>

The beheading of American journalist James Foley by a militant from the Islamic State has focused renewed attention on the U.S. policy of not negotiating with or paying ransom to

terrorists – and on the differences between U.S. policy and the policies followed by many European countries.





The U.S. government has refused to pay ransoms for American captives. Foley's execution could have been avoided had he been a citizen of any one of several European countries which privately negotiate with terrorist groups to guarantee the safe return of their captured citizens. "I wish I could have the hope of freedom and seeing my family once again, but that ship has sailed," Foley said a few minutes before he was killed in the video released last week. "I guess, all in all, I wish I wasn't American."

The *Atlantic* notes that Foley's regret at being an American captive – whether or not the words he uttered were dictated to him by his captives – could be understood, considering the fate of other previously captured journalists. Earlier this year, four French and two Spanish journalists held hostage by Islamic State militants were freed after their governments paid ransoms through intermediaries.

**The Homeland Security News Wire recently reported that al-Qaeda and its affiliates in North Africa and the Middle East had received at least \$125 million in ransom**

**money from kidnappings since 2008 – majority of whom came from European countries.**

If the United States continues to maintain its policy against paying terrorist ransoms as a way to deter further kidnappings, then officials must persuade European allies to adopt a similar policy.

Ransom for releasing kidnapped Europeans has become an increasingly more important revenue source for militant groups. Confident that ransoms will be paid, terror groups are targeting European journalists and aid workers.

**In 2003, \$200,000 was the average ransom for an al-Qaeda captive.**

Today, captors demand – and receive — millions per captive. "Kidnapping hostages is an easy spoil," Nasser al-Wuhayshi, the leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, wrote in a 2012 letter to the leader of an al-Qaeda affiliate in North Africa, "which I may describe as a profitable trade and a precious treasure."

Experts say that in the coming days and weeks, there should be a public debate on dealing with ransom demands from terrorist groups in the hopes that American and European lawmakers will adopt a united policy on the matter. **For now, the world may expect future beheadings of captured American citizens as long as Washington refuses to negotiate with terrorists, while Europeans captured by terrorists can be sure that their governments will pay to set them free.**

**Comment: Jihadi cancer thrives in London**

By Ben Caspit (citizen)

Source: <http://www.jpost.com/International/Comment-Jihadi-cancer-thrives-in-London-372185>

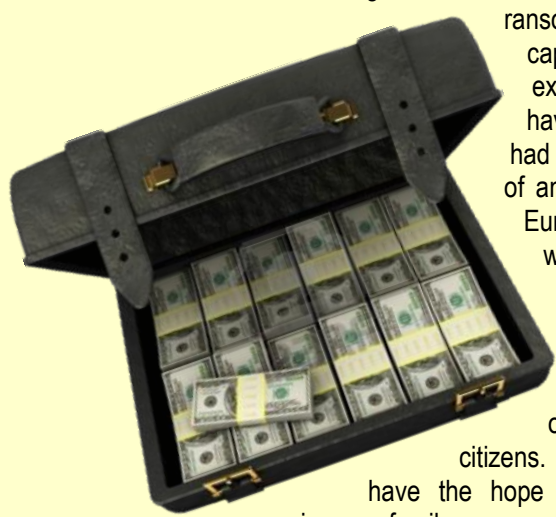
*To British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond*

I read what you wrote when you learned that "Jihadist John," who decapitated American journalist James Foley, is London-born Majd Abed el-Bary, a British citizen.

According to you, Mr. Foreign Secretary, "sooner or later they will try to attack us on our own land" and you accused that same jihadist of "an utter betrayal of everything the British people stand for." You added: "It is horrifying to think that the perpetrator of this heinous act could have been brought up in Britain."

*Tell me, Mr. Foreign Secretary, do you live in Britain?*

And if you do, are you deaf, blind and dumb? Because if you are not, I have to ask myself, what is it that so amazes and horrifies you? If you are indeed familiar with the UK, and take the occasional walk in London and try to walk through the neighborhoods and boroughs that Islamists have occupied in recent years, and try to understand what they are preaching to their congregations in those same mosques that are springing up like



mushrooms after the rain, you really shouldn't be surprised. Incidentally, Mr. Hammond, try doing it dressed like an Orthodox Jew.

I wonder if you'll survive, and in what condition.

I don't mean to mock you, Mr. Foreign Secretary, or the UK. Here in Israel we have enormous respect for Britain; because its leadership still knows how to discern between good and bad and I am sure that, in an anonymous poll, both Prime Minister David Cameron and you would vote for Israel in its war against Hamas. It would have to be anonymous because otherwise you are liable to pay too heavy a political price in your constituencies.

We can all count and we all know the number of Muslim citizens there are in the UK these days and how influential they are. Here in Israel there are quite a few staunch supporters of Britain; me included. We consider you to be among the more enlightened nations in the world. Not only were you a military and political empire, but you are also responsible for most of the cultural treasures, music, theater, art, innovation, humor and creativity known to man.

Only two months ago the Rolling Stones performed in Tel Aviv (it seems as if it was 20 years ago) and, despite the exorbitant price of tickets, they managed to draw an audience of 50,000 excited fans to Yarkon Park.

But, Mr. Foreign Secretary, the UK has not only cultural heroes, but a surplus of ordinary heroes.

We shall never forget that Britain was the first and only country to step up and look Hitler in the eye and not turn away; to fight Hitler against all odds and to beat him.

Then you had Winston Churchill, a highly admired leader to this day, even among the best of our own leaders. Britain has known strength, determination and survivability.

I wonder if you still have those traits, Mr. Hammond? I refer mainly to survivability. I am not sure.

Medically, there are still signs of life. What then are your chances of surviving the Islamic tsunami and preserving your culture, your character, your personality? I don't know.

Your spirit lives, still, here and there. For example, a few weeks ago Hamas rockets threatened our international airport and caused panic that resulted in many airlines (led by the US, oddly enough) to cancel flights to and from Israel. It lasted a day-and-a-half, until everyone realized that Ben-Gurion Airport is the safest in the world.

But in that time, British Airways proved that it is made of the same stern stuff as before and continued flying, did not delay or cancel a single flight, and rightly so. We salute them.

We visit London frequently, Mr. Hammond. Nothing beats British football, nothing like British music, theater, art, humor or the British spirit.

But these visits are becoming increasingly hard. Your streets have changed. You don't need to be much of a researcher to know how dangerous the penetration of radical Islam is to Europe's capitals; how overbearing Islam can be; how alien it is to tolerance, to acceptance of the other, to integrate into the existing culture.

Thirty minutes of surfing the Internet, Mr. Foreign Secretary, will reveal to you the horrifying worlds that are flourishing in your backyard.

You'll see religious preachers, seeped in hatred for everything Western, for everything Jewish, for everything Christian, for everything that does not identify with them.

You'll see fury in the streets, violence toward everyone who comes to demand the freedom to live as they wish. I especially recommend a video of an ostensibly moderate Muslim preaching his creed to a congregation of seemingly moderate Muslims and, after they have all finished defining themselves "moderate Muslims" he asks all those who support the Islamic laws of punishment – in which women are stoned to death for adultery, for example – to raise their arms. All the hundreds of men present raise their arms as one. And these are moderates.

For decades, we have been told that Islamic terror is the result of ignorance and poverty. Give them welfare, education, comfortable lives and you'll dry the bog of hatred. Well, that's not quite true. The al-Qaida terrorists who attacked America 13 years ago were immigrants who enjoyed very comfortable lives in the American democracy. Your own British citizen, Mr. Hammond, who beheaded the American journalist, came from an elegant Maida Vale home and a life of comfort.

It is hate, Philip, and nothing else; education to hate, to hate the other, to intolerance, to a thirst for blood and murder. And here we come to our mutual interests, Mr. Foreign Secretary.



Soon you will understand, for good or for bad, that Israel is not a burden on the West. Israel is not stuck here like a bone in a Muslim throat. Getting rid of Israel will solve nothing. I think you may have already understood that. All you need do is listen to radical Islam. It talks; sometimes in English. It is exact; it is accurate.

It declares and reiterates its real objective – to annihilate the West. To annihilate the infidels. Not only in Syria, or Iraq, or the Middle East, but everywhere.

There is no need to chart the map of extremism and distinguish between Hamas and Islamic State, for example. They are arms of the same octopus. For 14 years, Hamas has been shooting rockets on women and children, even after Israel withdrew unilaterally from every last inch of the Gaza Strip. Why? Because they want to drive us out of here. How do I know this? They say so every day, explicitly, repeatedly.

*So why is the world silent?*

Good question, Mr. Hammond.

You know that one day your own jihadists will come back home, don't you? And it's time to start doing something, isn't it? To say something. Maybe, next time an incited mob demonstrates in the streets of London and calls for "Murder to Israel," some brave British politician will stand up and tell these people the truth, in his voice, in his language.

Or, alternatively, imagine, Mr. Hammond, what would have happened if the next generation of Hitler's murder machine had grown up in your own country, in your London?

**How one Iraqi returned from Europe ready to kill family, friends**

By Benjamin Hall (Fox News)

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/08/21/radicalized-how-one-iraqi-returned-from-europe-ready-to-kill-family-friends/>

August 24 – Shamal Ahmad Tofiq was fun-loving barber from the northern Iraqi town of Said Sada until he traveled to Europe and came back radicalized and ready to kill his family and friends.

Shamal Ahmad Tofiq was a fun-loving barber from the northern Iraqi town of Said Sada who liked women and a party – before he left his small hometown to find himself in Europe.



Now he is back, and, as a fast-rising member of Islamic State, is committed to killing his own countrymen. His family and fellow villagers say they watched from afar, communicating with Tofiq, now known as Sina Ahmad, by Facebook as he descended into radicalization after meeting jihadists in Athens.

"In our village, he was known by everybody and had many friends," said Chamal Omar, who, like Ahmad, is 26. "His

family were poor but they were happy. His father sold shoes. Now we do not know him, he is a stranger. It was in Europe that this happened -- away from his friends."

While much of Europe worries about the radicalization of homegrown Muslims in mosques where fiery imams exhort young minds to wage a holy war with the West, Ahmad's path to violent jihad shows the Islamic crucibles of Athens, London and Paris can turn the Middle East's sons against their own.

Ahmad has told stunned friends and family members in blunt words that he has no qualms about fighting his own family, or even killing his own brother, having determined they are living in sin.

Interviews with former friends of Ahmad, as well as his own Facebook posts, paint a chilling picture of how he became a radical committed to killing all those whose lives he deems an affront to Allah. He left his hometown in the mountains of Kurdistan in 2009 to discover Europe, and wound up living in Greece's capital. One night, he told friends, he drank so heavily that the ensuing hangover convinced him he needed to change.

He turned over the new leaf the next day at a mosque, where he was quickly wooed by Islamic fundamentalists from Yemen, Britain and Pakistan. He kept his family and old pals



back home apprised of his new friends on regular Facebook chats, telling them how he was meeting interesting people and attending meetings at the mosque.

Only in retrospect do the old friends realize they were witnessing the radicalization of the young man they still called Shamal. He resurfaced in Syria, where he joined the Al Qaeda-linked Jahbat al Nusra in its bid to oust dictator Bashar al-Assad. Then, like thousands of al Nusra members, he joined the group then known as ISIS as it ascended. With the Islamic State now claiming a caliphate in northern Iraq and Syria, Ahmad is believed to be a central player in the battlefield with Kurdistan.

Ahmad is still active on Facebook, but now his page is replete with graphic images showing horribly disfigured bodies. As recently as a month ago, some old friends received emails from Ahmad urging them to repent, and to join his side. And while most of those who knew him in his previous life are appalled, one friend, who also left Said Sada and at least for a time lived in Rhode Island, is not.

"The whole world is afraid of you now, and victory will eventually be for all Muslims," the friend, known to the same circle of Said Sada residents as Ahmad, posted alongside a picture of himself praying while surrounded by guns.

Childhood friends of Ahmad, who still live in the small mountain town only an hour from the front lines where Kurds are battling bravely against Islamic State fighters, say his radicalization has shattered their close-knit community, as well as his family, which unequivocally rejects his actions.

**"We are fighting against the Islamic State," said Roman Kamal, 26. "How can our friend now be against us and against his family? We cannot understand."**

Ahmad's brother, who is fighting with the Kurdish Peshmerga, declined to discuss his brother, as did their father. But friends say the family has been destroyed by the wayward son who now seeks to kill them and the community around them.

"His father is broken now," said one. "We help him and gather round to heal his broken heart."

In the small Kurdish town where Ahmad grew up, many young men are taking up arms to fight the Islamic State. They know their fight is for the very survival of their home, and they know if it comes down to it, they may have to kill one man who once lived among them.

"The family has been torn apart," Omar said. "Like the country."

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** After commenting on the "snoring British Lion" in the August 2014 issue of the Newsletter, it is time to write about the "snoring Zeus" of Greece...



What is written in the article above is no surprise to those following related issues. The problem is that among them, those ruling this country are either totally absent or totally blind. With the continuous influx of illegal immigrants

(by thousands) it is inevitable that jihadists with combat



experience will infiltrate and find prosperous grounds in one or more of the 200 illegal mosques available in Athens (and a few in other cities especially of Northern Greece). One of our biggest modern debates is the new mosque to be build in Athens – if and when it would be build. It seems that our financial suffering made us deaf, blind and mute... Our only hope might be the revolution of our "*philotimo*" genes that will take control of things despite the denial of our human brains – or what is left out of them!

► Learn more about Greek Philotimo at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXPJNDVfBqU#t=201>



### Kickstarter-funded journalists found an ISIL training camp using Google Earth and Bing Maps

Source: <http://qz.com/254405/kickstarter-funded-journalists-found-an-isil-training-camp-using-google-earth-and-bing-maps/>

A group of crowd-funded citizen journalists seem to have located a training camp for the militant group ISIL using only online mapping services and some old-fashioned detective work. Bellingcat, which raised almost £51,000 (\$85,000) to do its own unique form of journalism, was founded by Eliot Higgins, who became famous (and was profiled by the New Yorker) for proving Syria was using chemical weapons from his bedroom in Leicester, England using only images and videos available online. His team includes a mix of bloggers, research analysts, and traditional reporters. Bellingcat has explained in detail how it found the exact location of a training camp. First, using stills from videos showing the graduation of an ISIL class earlier this year, the team identified a large river and several bridges in the background, which it identified as the Tigris in Mosul, Iraq, the city that ISIL took in June and have been wreaking havoc in since. The group used **Google Earth** to make the identification.



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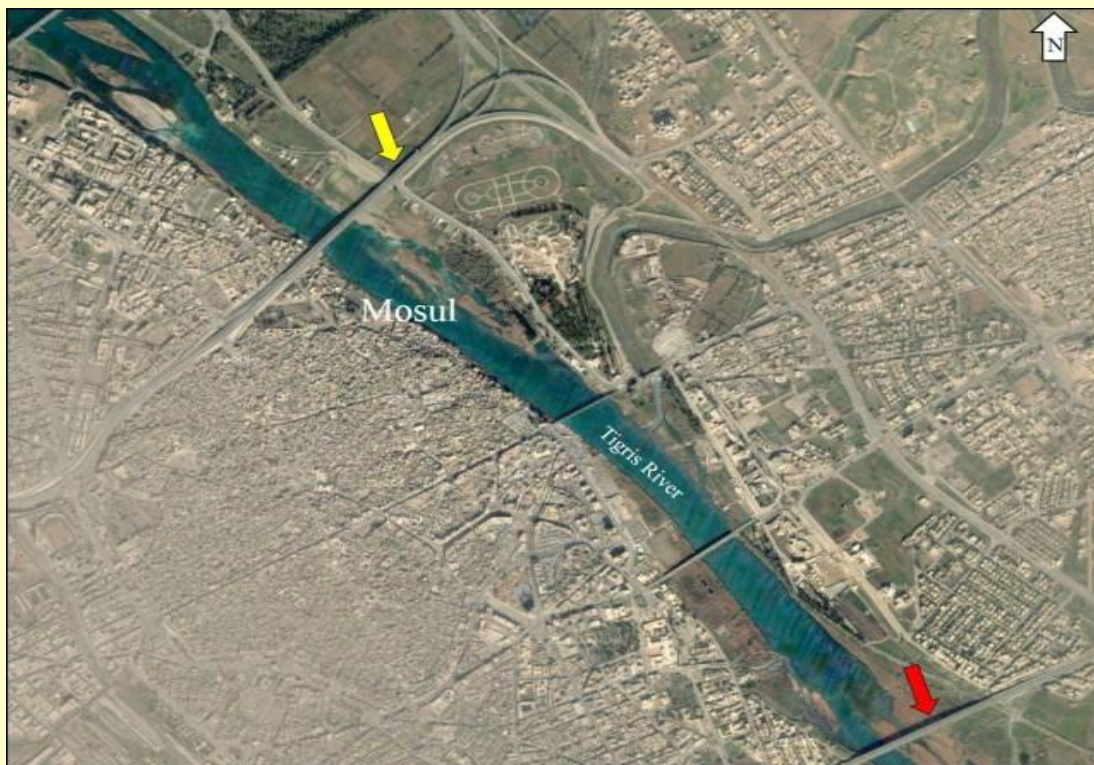
The bridges [green arrow] in the background are key to identification. Bellingcat

To identify exactly which building, Bellingcat used **Flash Earth**, a more up-to-date service that uses Microsoft's **Bing Maps** to see where along the river the building is.





“In the entire area there’s only one possible location that matches, on the north side of the river, with the camera pointing south,” the team said. “It also appears the martial arts lessons were photographed in



the same area, with the bridge running over the road visible, and the trees on the right.” The team also used **Panoramio**, a service that takes the location metadata on photographs and puts them on a Google Map. Using a single photo, Bellingcat noticed that the Arabic writing on a bridge in the corner of the picture, as well as the placement of the street lights. It also used old photos on Google Maps against the Panoramio pictures to determine that the buildings the jihadists are marching in front of are new, and that they must have marched 2.9 km (1.8 miles). The whole process to pinpoint the training camp is impressive—and what is more impressive is that you can do it too. Bellingcat has a series of guides on how to geolocate photos and images.

**As Higgins explains his mission on Kickstarter:**

**The practice of journalism is continuing to expand and broaden. We don’t need to exclusively rely on traditional news media to do the digging and reporting for us. We—you—can do it on our own.**

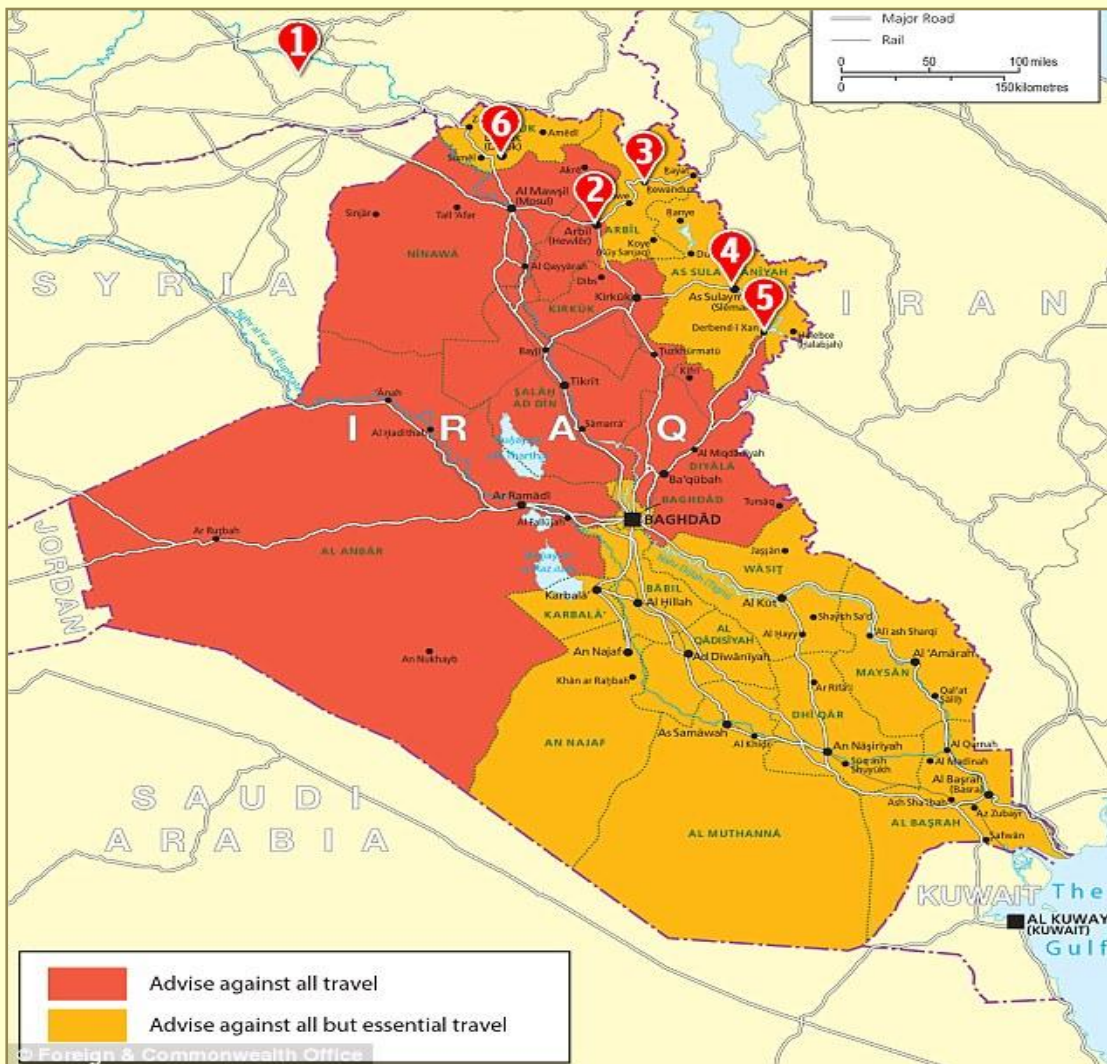


**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Although the whole process requires patients and imagination, it can be done! [personal experience] **My only question is:** if they (the amateurs) can do that, what about the professionals with TONS of material from satellites, drones, Internet etc??? Perhaps they are missing the human factor or the ability to add 1+1! Or they just do not have the passion and drive anymore...

**Holiday firm to continue to offer trips to IRAQ despite bloodthirsty Islamic State militants spreading terror**

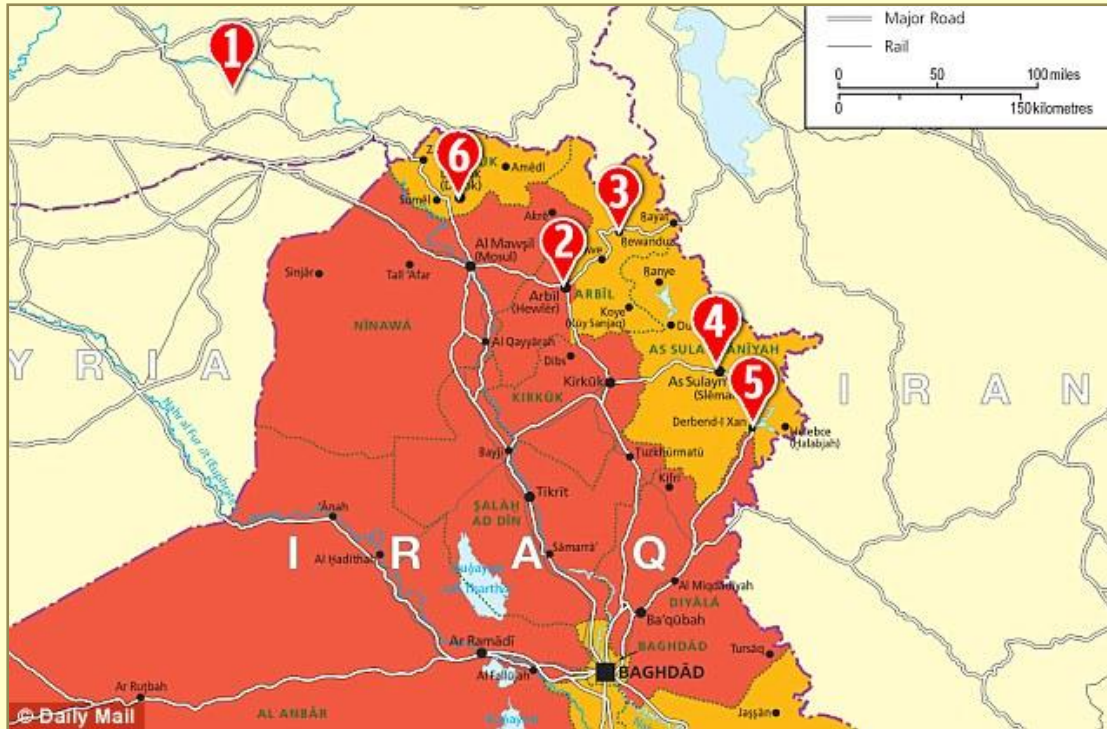
Source: [http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel\\_news/article-2733055/Holiday-firm-continue-offer-trips-IRAQ-despite-increasing-threat-posed-Islamic-State-militants.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-2733055/Holiday-firm-continue-offer-trips-IRAQ-despite-increasing-threat-posed-Islamic-State-militants.html)

A British travel agent who specialises in unusual holidays is refusing to let brutal Islamic State militants force him to scrap his £750-a-time trips to Iraq. Travel mad Dylan Harris set up a firm offering daredevil tourists vacations to a string of bizarre destinations including the troubled Middle East country. Harris, 35, said: 'ISIS have not reached the area of Iraq where we go to and hopefully the US Air strikes will hold them back. 'We are checking the situation is a daily basis but for the moment it is business as usual.'



Clear message: The Foreign & Commonwealth Office's advice for travel to Iraq. Many of the areas on the tour (numbered) are pictured here in yellow, at the north end of the country. Erbil (2) is in the danger zone





Tour stops: 1 - Diyarbakir, 2 - Erbil, 3 - Rawanduz, 4 - Sulaymaniyah, 5 - Halabja, 6 - Duhok

Dylan is the owner of Lupine Travel and has offices in Manchester and China. The company are keen to stress that the tours take place in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

**For approximately £750 you will get:**

- Iraq visa (issued free on arrival at the border)
- 3\* central twin hotel accommodation
- All road transport in Turkey and Iraq
- Tours and entry fees
- Experienced English speaking Kurdish guide
- Accompanied by Western guide throughout the trip
- All breakfasts

Keen back packer Dylan said: 'I spent most of my 20s travelling but found myself constantly looking for new experiences.

'I found the most rewarding travel experiences were to places with very few, if any, tourists.

'While visiting these places I met several others taking similar trips and the consensus was always the same - the logistics of visiting these countries were very difficult and costs usually high.



'So I decided to try and build up a network of contacts in these places to make trips there easier and put my own packages together, for affordable prices.

'Personally I like Iran because it is so different from what you would actually expect.

'The people are some of the most friendly and well-educated





around and the food is great - it is just a place that continues to surprise.'

Tensions are high in Iraq as Islamic State fighters continue to bomb and attack many towns in the north of the country.

The battles between Sunnis and Shiites are escalating, with bomb blasts killing over 30 people in Kirkuk and Baghdad on Friday.

The innocent killing of U.S. journalist James Foley by the Islamic State militants in Syria has led for calls on the Barack Obama government for sterner action on the terrorists, in both Iraq and Syria.

The foreign & Commonwealth Office have advised against all-but essential travel to the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Speaking to Mail Online, Harris said: 'Our next tour there is in October. At the moment we still plan to go ahead with the trip as the areas we are visiting are currently safe.

'If the situation deteriorates though we will re-evaluate and cancel the trip if we feel that it is too dangerous to visit.

'Clients are required to take out their own personal insurance. In the past, most worldwide insurance coverage included travelling to the Kurdish region of Iraq but due to the recent change in FCO advise, we are asking clients to check with their providers for any change in coverage and to take out specialist insurance if need be.'

## Nine-day itinerary for your trip to Iraq

### Day One

Arrive in Diyarbakir (Turkey) and check into hotel. **(Number 1 on map)**

An afternoon tour of South East Turkey's biggest city.

Walk around the city walls, see the Great Mosque, the four legged minaret, the Armenian and Cyriac churches and the two restored caravanseries.

Evening at leisure.

### Day two

Depart at 8:00 by bus and travel through the ancient city of Mardin.

Travel along the Syrian border before arriving at the border point of Silopi.



Undergo border formalities before crossing into Iraqi Kurdistan. Drive through Zakho before travelling onwards to Erbil **(number 2 on map)**, arriving around 18:00.

Evening at leisure.

[Erbil's market...](#)

### Day three

After breakfast we will take a tour of Erbil.

Early in the day we will see old Erbil visiting the ancient Citadel, the Kurdish Textile Museum, the Mound of Qalich Agha and the

Minaret Park.

Afterwards we will see modern Erbil, visiting parks, malls and shopping areas.

Evening spent at leisure around Erbil.

Drink in one of the tea houses around the city square before heading for dinner at one of Erbil's many restaurants.



Head out to the Christian Ainkawa area later for alcoholic drinks at a bar or club.

**Day four**

After breakfast we travel out onto the famous Hamilton Road.



Widely regarded as one of the greatest engineering feats of the 20th Century, the road was engineered by Kiwi, Archibald Hamilton between 1928 and 1932.

The road snakes through incredible scenery, from gorges, canyons, rivers, lakes and mountains. We will stop along the way at Bekhal Waterfall, Gali Ali Bag Waterfall and also pass through the towns and villages of Shaqlawa, Harir and Soran. In the late afternoon we will head to Pank Resort, a holiday destination for both Kurdish and Arab Iraqis.

We will stay overnight in this resort, with the chance to use the fairground and restaurants.

**Day five**

After breakfast we will travel to Sulaymaniyah (**number 4 on map**).

En-route we will visit the Qshla of Koya Citadel. Upon arrival in Sulaymaniyah we take a sombre visit to Amna Sukhara, also known as the 'Red Prison'. This was the former Northern headquarters of Mukhbarat (the Iraqi Intelligence Service) and was used by Saddam Hussein's regime for imprisonment and torture of Kurds.

Within the prison is a beautiful memorial made from 182,000 mirrored pieces and 5400 lights. Each piece of mirror signifies each Kurd killed by Saddam's regime and the lights for each Kurdish village destroyed.

After lunch we will check into our hotel before heading to Chavy Gashtyary City, a newly built amusement park and entertainment area for the Sulaymaniyah region. Evening spent at leisure.

**Day six**



Today we will visit the town of Halabja (**number 5 on map**).

On March 16th 1988, the town was subjected to the worst cases of genocide in Iraq's history.

Over a period of 5 hours, chemical weapons were used against the civilians of Halabja with 5000 killed and up to 10,000 injured.

We will visit the Halabja Monument Museum before driving North to the Ahmed Away waterfall, close to the Iranian border.

Afterwards drive back to Sulaymaniyah (photo: famous prison) and spend the evening at leisure.

**Day seven**

Early morning departure to the beautiful Dokan Lake where we will take a boat trip.

Afterwards we drive north to the city of Duhok (**number 6 on map**). Duhok is encircled by mountains and the Tigris river.

After checking into our hotel, we will spend the evening socialising with the locals at the Dream city amusement park.



**Day eight**

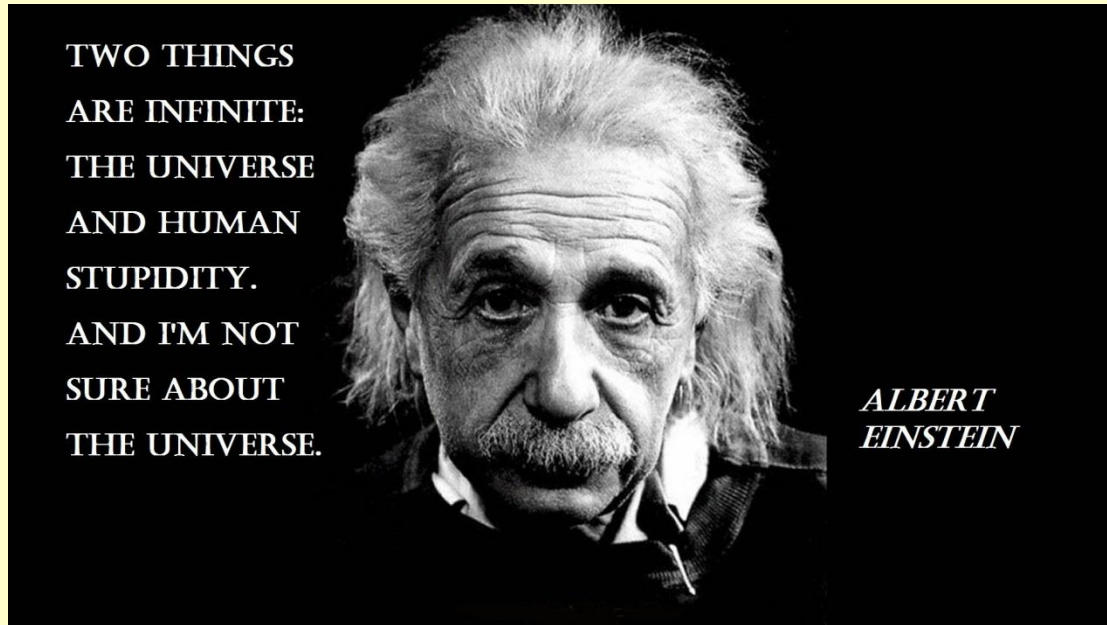
After breakfast we will travel back across the border and to Diyarbakir where we will arrive in approximately, mid afternoon.

Check into hotel and evening at leisure.

**Day nine**

Depart Diyarbakir.

*Itinerary taken from [www.lupinetravel.co.uk/iraq-tour](http://www.lupinetravel.co.uk/iraq-tour)*



**Conversation: Analyzing Differences between al Qaeda and The Islamic State**

Source: <http://www.stratfor.com/video/conversation-analyzing-differences-between-al-qaeda-and-islamic-state#axzz3BZ1sb3cE>

**Paul Floyd:** Hi, I'm Paul Floyd, a military analyst here at Stratfor.

**Scott Stewart:** And I'm Scott Stewart, Stratfor's vice president of tactical analysis.

**Paul:** Today we're going to look at the comparisons between the Islamic State and al Qaeda, but we are also going to note some of the very real differences and how those are just as important. What we've seen recently on the battlefield is the Islamic State has made some serious gains, and because of that and al Qaeda's relatively quiet behavior in comparison, there have been lots of mumblings that the Islamic State is the more capable threat to the world in the sense of extreme terrorism.



**Scott:** I think it's important that when we look at the differences between the two organizations, we really look at how they were founded and what their objectives are on the battlefield. When we look at al Qaeda, it was really formed as a vanguard organization intended to really be a global facilitator of the jihad to bring the caliphate into being. We basically had an organization that was founded by a Saudi millionaire but was always relatively small, they never really posed much of an insurgent threat on the battlefield, and they always operated under the leadership of another Islamic polity. Whether that meant being stationed in Afghanistan under



the Taliban or even in Sudan, they were always subservient and never really ruled themselves. On the other hand, with the Islamic State and its predecessor organizations, they were founded by Abu Musab Zarqawi, who was a Jordanian street thug. His organization has always brought those characteristics with it. Not only have they been more regionally focused, but they have also been brutal. They don't care about the big picture. They are very intransigent and very strict in how they do things. They really don't care what the rest of the world thinks.

**Paul:** I think it's also important that when you articulate who is a threat, you have to say who they are actually a threat to. So are we talking about a threat to the western powers versus a regional threat?

**Scott:** That's one of the things. We understand these are militant groups, and they use different types of militant tactics. They'll use terrorism, they'll use insurgency, they'll use conventional warfare as we are seeing right now with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. But when it comes to those various types of tactics, it takes different training. Someone like yourself who is a former Ranger, you can be very good at conventional warfare or irregular warfare, but if I was to take you and send you into a foreign culture and ask you to set up a terrorist cell and then conduct some terrorist operations -- say a vehicle bombing -- that would be a challenge for you because you really haven't received that type of training. So, in order to be able to blend in, to travel, to set up clandestine networks, it's really more akin to espionage than it is conventional warfare. So there are different skill sets that require different training, and that's one of the big differences between al Qaeda and the Islamic State. Al Qaeda has really been more focused traditionally on terrorism, on trying to reach out and conduct attacks in various parts of the world -- including the United States and Europe

-- and the Islamic State really hasn't developed that sort of capability or really even the training camps and resources at this point.

**Paul:** especially on a global scale, we've seen the State prove historically that they've had good terror tactics in Syria and Iraq, kind of in this regional sense, and now because of the battlefield situation, they have become more conventional in their attacks but still maintain those terrorist networks regionally. When you talk about that global footprint and the ability to try and work something in the Western countries, I agree with you that al Qaeda is much more of a threat in that sense. That being said, one of the big things being pointed out is the idea that a lot of the foreign fighters that are working for the Islamic State could filter back in and become a threat regionally, and I wondered if you could speak to that.

**Scott:** Yes. That's an important thing to look at, but then again, whether its an American of British or French jihadi that travels to Syria and undergoes the training there, they're being trained in what we went through in the army as basic training. You're learning to fire your assault rifle and learning to throw grenades, use anti-tank weapons like the RPG, some physical training type stuff, small unit tactics, but that doesn't really translate directly into conducting mass or large scale terrorist attacks in a non-permissive environment. Recently, we saw an American jihadi used in a car bombing, and that's one of the things with the Islamic State and Jabhat al-Nusra. They will combine terrorism even in their conventional tactics where they will use a car bomb to open up a checkpoint to attack a facility. But at the same time, taking that operative and sending him back to America to construct a car bomb and use it in an attack in the United States is really something quite different from what they've been able to do.

**Paul:** Fascinating Scott, and thank you.

**Iraq, Syria, Libya, UK – Intelligence failures all**

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/defence-and-security-blog/2014/aug/26/isis-terror-britain>

Given the resources available to US – and British – intelligence agencies, it seems strange that the attraction, influence, finance, and military strength, of the extremist group which calls itself Islamic State (Isis) came **as such a surprise.**



As Patrick Cockburn observes in his excellent new book, *The Jihadis Return*, "though the swiftly growing power of Isis was obvious to those who followed its fortunes, the significance of what was happening was taken on board by few foreign governments, hence the widespread shock that greeted the fall of Mosul".

It was evident, says Cockburn, that western governments entirely misread the situation in Iraq and Syria.

For more than a decade, the US – backed by successive British governments, to the horror of many in Whitehall, notably the Foreign Office and some MI6 officers – adopted a simplistic, easy, and entirely misguided, approach towards a most complex and unstable part of the world.

Whether it was bombing (Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan), or demonising dictators (Saddam in Iraq, Gaddafi in Libya, Assad in Syria) it was as though the US and UK governments never contemplated the extraordinary dangerous consequences of a power vacuum.

It is even more dangerous when foreigners impose a deadline on the withdrawal of their forces (Iraq and Afghanistan).

Western governments should have worked more closely, and more humbly, with Turkey, Iran, countries throughout the Middle East, and with Russia (whose leaders have been deeply concerned about radical Islamist extremism for rather longer than the west). The task is to persuade them they do have some essential common interests.

## **Lack of intelligence as well as Intelligence Intelligence begins at home, but should be deployed away**

It is not too late to pick up the pieces, and attack such drivers of extremism as poverty, alienation, and sectarianism.

In the short term, humanitarian aid, supplying those fighting Isis with appropriate weapons, and dealing with Assad.

"Sometimes you have to develop relationships with people who are extremely nasty in order to get rid of people who are even nastier", Sir Malcolm Rifkind, former Conservative defence and foreign secretary, now chair of the parliamentary intelligence and security committee, told the Financial Times last week. Richard Dannatt, former head of the army, took a similar line.

Philip Hammond, former defence secretary, now foreign secretary, distanced himself from such talk. Britain would not supply "lethal support" to the "moderate Syrian opposition", he added.

David Cameron and Hammond talk about Britain's "military prowess". That seems to mean intelligence-gathering equipment and (deniable) Special Forces.

**Those used to dealing with unsavoury customers are officers of the foreign intelligence service, MI6.** They were among the first to talk to the IRA, taking the long view. They have been frustrated in their early, sensible, attempts to talk to the Taliban.

**Now they are warning the government not to overreact to Britons' joining Isis and returning home.**

The fundamental tenet of British justice – innocent until proved guilty – should not be changed even in a minor way for this "unproven threat – and it is an unproven threat at the moment," Richard Barrett, MI6's former counter terrorism chief, has told the Guardian. **"I don't think we should change the laws without a very much more thorough assessment and understanding of the threat," he added.**

Sir Richard Dearlove, Barrett's former boss, said last month that the government and media had blown the Islamist terrorism threat out of proportion, giving extremists publicity that was counter-productive.

The conflict, he said, was "essentially one of Muslim on Muslim".

It is the job of the domestic security service, MI5, to counter any threat they might pose here. Those jihadists who proudly tweet horrific statements and images are not the dangerous ones. The question is how many are quietly planning attacks.

Counter terrorist police appear to be encouraged that families of those who have gone to Syria and Iraq, or their friends and imams, appear to share the concern.



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They should be embraced and sticks, rhetorical or otherwise, kept to a minimum.

*Richard Norton-Taylor writes for the Guardian on defence and security and until recently was the paper's security editor. He is a regular broadcaster. He joined the Guardian in 1973 as the newspaper's first European correspondent based in Brussels. He returned to Britain in 1975. He won the Freedom of Information Campaign Award in 1986 and in 1994, and Liberty's Human Rights Award for journalism in 2010. He edits the Guardian Defence and Security blog with Ewen MacAskill.*

### Metal detectors at Yankee Stadium

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2014/08/metal-detectors-yankee-stadium/>

Fans heading to Yankee Stadium during the team's current homestand will be seeing some

asked us to implement. We want our fans to feel safe in



Yankee Stadium, and our staff is dedicated to maintaining the highest security standards possible."

**Starting in 2015, the metal detectors will be in place at all game-day entrances to Yankee Stadium.** Fans will be asked to remove cell phones and all large metal objects from their pockets before walking through metal detectors at select

new security measures. Beginning this week, the team is adding metal detectors at some of the stadium's entrances.

Yankee Stadium entryways. **All bags will be**

The move is part of Major League Baseball's efforts to standardize security at all stadiums. The metal detectors are in addition to the bag checks that are now done at all big league ballparks.

Fans are advised to allow extra time to get into the stadium. The procedures are part of MLB's continuing work with the Department of Homeland Security to standardize security practices across the game, according to ABC.

"Nothing is more important to us at Yankee Stadium than the safety of the fans we serve," said Yankees Chief Operating Officer Lonnie Trost. "To that end, we are committed to the procedures that Major League Baseball and the Department of Homeland Security have



**checked, and only MLB-compliant bags – 16 in. x 16 in. x 8 in. or smaller – will be admitted.** Those who choose not to go through a walk-through metal detector have the option of being manually checked with a hand-held detector.



**MANPADS, an imminent threat**

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2014/08/manpads-imminent-threat/>

**Man portable air defense systems (MANPADS) were transferred from Syria to some terror groups, thereby posing an immediate threat to civil and military aircraft in many countries.**



Israeli sources say that the shoulder launched missiles that have been taken by terror groups in Syria are very advanced and pose high risk to civil and military aircraft.

According to a recent report some “armed groups” in Syria have laid their hands on an unknown number of man portable air defense systems (MANPADS)

The Report by the Swiss Small Arms Survey research group was released just hours after the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a notice to US airlines banning all flights in Syrian airspace.

The FAA said armed extremists in Syria are “known to be equipped with a variety of anti-aircraft weapons which have the capability to threaten civilian aircraft”.

The FAA had previously warned against flights over Syria, but had not prohibited them until now.

Yiftah Shapir, head of the Middle East Military Balance Project at the Israel-based Institute for national security studies (INSS), said that according to his information, the MANPDS in the hands of the terrorist groups in Syria that may have smuggled some of them out of the war torn country, are Russian and Chinese made.

**Shapir said that the systems are probably the IGLA S (SA-24)**

**Russian made system and the QW-1 Chinese made system.**

“These families of shoulder launched missiles are very dangerous, mainly because they are immune against many of the countermeasures that are being operated today”

The researcher said that there are some variants of the two systems and they are a big danger to both civil and military aircraft.

Israeli Air force (IAF) aircraft operating in the zones near Syria and Lebanon are operating countermeasures in every mission.

**Intercepting mortar shells – maybe operational in 5 years’ time**

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2014/08/intercepting-mortar-shells-maybe-operational-five-years-time/>



Don’t hold your breath just yet. In the best case scenario, even had unlimited resources be allocated to this end, an effective system for intercepting mortar shells will not be operational in less than five years.

Mortar shells have menaced the people living in communities along the border with Gaza as well as the soldiers gathered and encamped there.

Mortar shells are fired at very close range of a few kilometers, so the Iron Dome system cannot intercept them.

Nevertheless, as disclosed last week, Iron Dome did succeed in intercepting a few mortar



shells fired from a range of about 4 miles during the recent campaign. Israel's defense industries are keen to solve this issue. IAI developed WindGuard, a mobile radar system capable of detecting mortar shell fire. But then, you have to intercept the mortar shells. This, in turn, is what Rafael developed: a laser system designed to intercept mortar

suitable for interception systems due to the size of the generator and the high concentration of chemicals, hence the requirement for solid-state laser. This is exactly what Rafael is currently working on. The US is after a laser system that is designed primarily against UAVs: a small laser system combined with rocket launcher. This entire



shells. Rafael's system, named "Iron Beam", is based on solid-state-laser. So here it goes, the effort continues, and it seems laser is the solution, but laser is

platform is to be installed on a hammer-size jeep. Those who oppose laser systems cite weather conditions and sandstorms as constant operational limitations. This is why the US



Army prefers to build laser systems incorporated with more conventional weapon systems. This combined platform will consist of a laser beam and a conventional weapon such as a rapid gun. Avid supporters of laser systems in the US and Israel say that laser weapons have far more ammunition than any other system. When the

problematic primarily due to the generator that is required to generate the beam used to destroy the mortar shell. This is the same Achilles heel that plagued the previous attempt to develop a system against rockets. Chemically generated laser is not

shells or bullets are up, you can still continue to fire many "shots" of laser beams at various targets. The war in Afghanistan gave a great push for the development of laser weapons. Ground forces





under the threat of rockets and mortar shells require an effective defense screen. A mobile laser system that can destroy rockets and

mortar shells is currently top priority of all defense industries in Israel and worldwide.

### Australia's airports 'seriously' lack security

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2014/08/australias-airports-seriously-lack-security/>

**The Australian Senate will consider calls for an inquiry into security at Australia's airports after a 7News investigation uncovered some 'serious' flaws.**

A key worry is the lack of strong perimeter

According to 7News people are freely allowed to fuel jerry cans on the tarmac at Canberra and dangerous items are regularly seized at security checkpoints and items have included long blade knives, guns and ammunition.



The Senate Inquiry comes as the Prime Minister warned Australia that faces the threat of a 'mass casualty terrorist event'. In addition to being possible targets, our airports are transit points for homegrown believers going overseas to fight and returning home as radicals.

**The Union for 50,000 airport workers claims up to 25 per cent of security staff have not undergone ASIO and police background checks.**

Tony Sheldon, who is the Transport Workers Union (TWU) National Secretary, added that with the upcoming G20

barriers at any of our major airports as well as security screenings, which are deemed so incomplete that **up to a quarter of all security staff has not been background checked by federal police or ASIO.**

Independent Senator Nick Xenophon said that he believes 'the information that's come to light indicates the need for an urgent Senate inquiry into airport security'.

"Something is seriously wrong with our security system," he added.

The South Australian Independent will next week introduce a motion in the Federal Parliament for a Senate Inquiry into airport security following a 7News investigation that revealed multiple breaches of perimeter fencing and passenger screening.

Roger Henning of Homeland Security Asia Pacific said: "The need is great, we have an imminent threat. It is well known that we have people living in this country who are capable of striking now."

Investigators revealed several security issues. The terminal entrance at Melbourne airport is thought too slack.



summit, leaders from around the world will be 'targets and our airports are going to be targets for attack during this period'.

An inquiry would also examine jihadists who have slipped through airport security, including convicted terrorist Khaled Sharrouf, one of two who used his brother's passport.

The Senate is expected to vote on proceeding with the Inquiry next week.





**Wargame to examine the fall of a ‘megacity’**

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2014/08/wargame-examine-fall-megacity/>



It's 2035, and a city of more than 10 million people is in a state of crisis plagued by insurgency, internal corruption and struck by a natural disaster in the form of a major flood.

The challenges, opportunities and potential approaches for the U.S. Army to conduct operations in such a complex environment will be the focus of the Deep Futures Wargame, being conducted Aug. 17-22, at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

The wargame is the culminating event in Unified Quest 2014, the Army chief of staff's future study plan, which examines a variety of feasible mid- to long-range strategic and operational settings and explores a broad set of ideas about future conflict.

Unified Quest is a series of rigorous intellectual planning seminars, symposia and forums with representatives from the Department of Defense, government agencies, academia and subject matter experts who examine how the future Army must adapt, evolve and innovate in the face of a rapidly changing and complex world.

"The key to the Army's exploration is examining the continually changing character of war, the role of conventional and special operations forces in the land domain and finding gaps in capability and capacity," said Col. Kevin Felix, chief of Future Warfare Division.

The wargame is a continuation of an effort started in 2013, to anticipate the enduring and emerging challenges and opportunities for the Army in 2030-2040.

Throughout the week-long event, participants will provide specialized insights into several

strategic and operational challenges and identify shortfalls in Army capabilities, ultimately determining on how the Army must operate, educate, train, organize and equip its force to inform future concept and capability development.

"Megacities present a unique operating environment: the scale, density, connectedness and complexity [being] far greater than anything the joint force has ever faced," Odierno said.

He further emphasized to the Army's newest leaders that because megacities are projected to double in the next 10 years, there is a high likelihood that they will conduct operations in such an environment.

During the wargame, participants will use computer simulations, acting as regionally aligned forces made up of military representatives from U.S. and coalition partners. They will rapidly respond to various scenarios, addressing the unique complexities of rapid urbanization in a megacity. This will better prepare the Army in developing future concepts, capabilities, capacity and doctrine that will help achieve operational success.

Participants will support two groups; an operational working group, and an innovation group.

The end state of the Unified Quest 14 Deep Futures Wargame will provide the Army new insights on future conflict, implications for possible scientific and technological investment, and ideas on how to better prepare for the future operational environment.

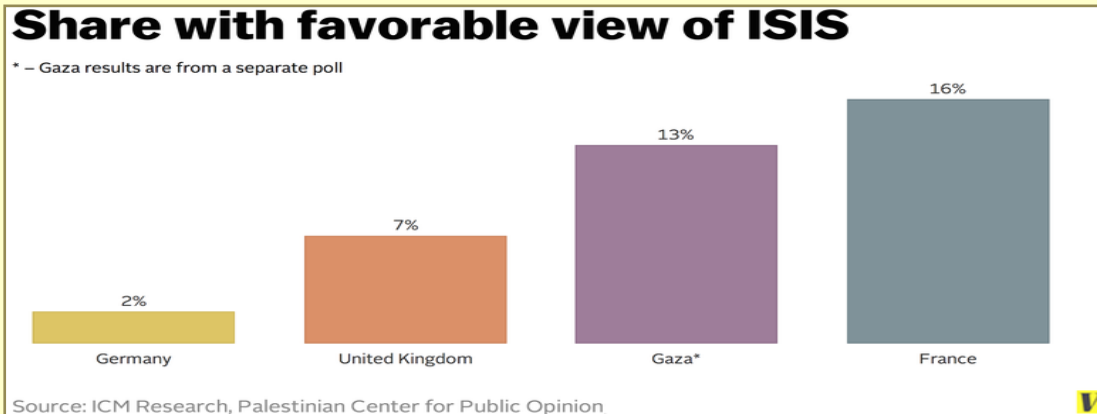


**One in six French people say they support ISIS**

Source: <http://www.vox.com/2014/8/26/6067123/isis-poll>

Two polls released this week both ask a question that you would hope wouldn't need asking: how many people support the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS)? Unfortunately, in all four countries surveyed, the answer is greater than zero, and by a lot.

Here is a chart of the results of the polls. The first, by ICM Research, asked people in Germany, France, and the UK whether they had a favorable or unfavorable view of ISIS. The second, by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion, asked Gazans whether they support or oppose ISIS. Here are the results.

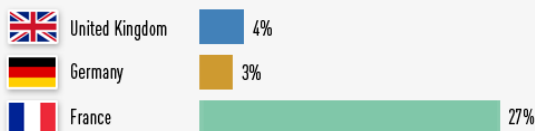


First, a caveat: while the polls of Gazans and Europeans are similar, they are not totally identical. They were conducted by different polling agencies using different methods, and the different question could skew responses, as "support" is stronger than "favor." So keep that in mind when comparing the Gaza results to the others, although it is hard to ignore that ISIS could have a higher approval rating in France than in Gaza.

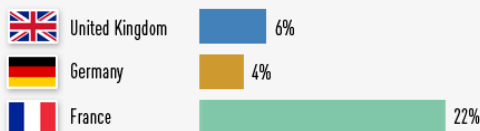
In any case, the big, scary, surprising, number here is France: 16 percent of those surveyed say they support ISIS. That's an awful lot. And that number gets even larger as the demographics get younger, as shown in this by-age breakdown published by Russia Today (the poll was commissioned by Russian state media, almost certainly to tar and/or troll Western countries, but that doesn't make the findings any less disturbing):

**Share of people with positive attitude to ISIS**

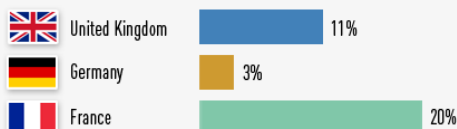
Age: 18-24 years old



Age: 25-34 years old



Age: 35-44 years old



This is alarming, in part because a growing number of Europeans, often from predominantly Muslim immigrant communities, are not just expressing their support for ISIS in polls: they are traveling to Syria and Iraq to join up. The ISIS fighter who killed American journalist James Foley on video last week spoke with a strong London accent. European governments are rightly worried about the implications of this for their own national security.

But there's more going on here. It's no secret that far-right politics have been on the rise in Western Europe, which includes a growing willingness to embrace extremism and greater intolerance of all kinds.

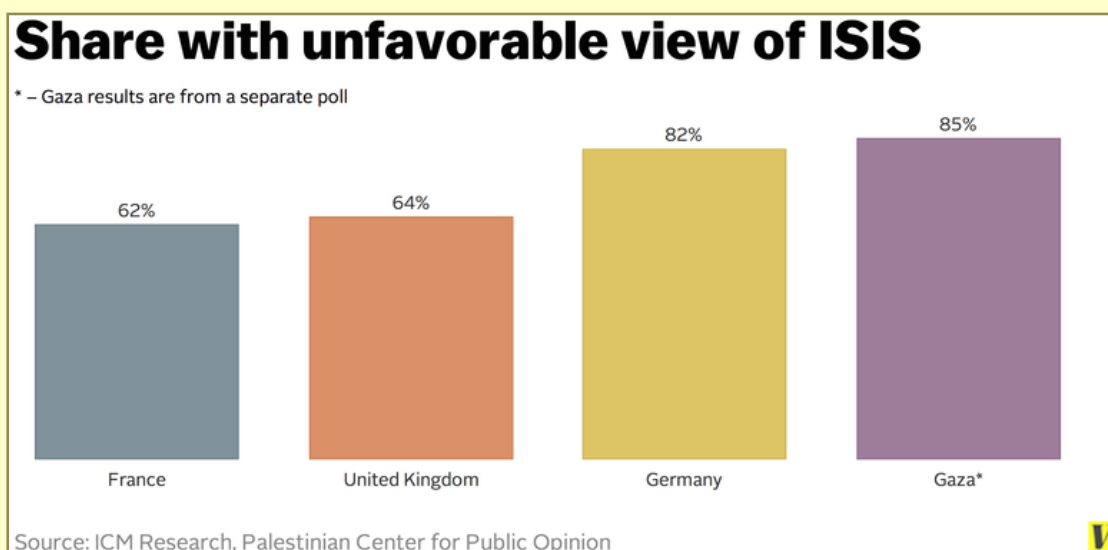


It is ironic but by no means impossible that far-right Islamophobia would rise in Europe alongside a greater approval of the Islamist group ISIS. Extremism is often reactive and ideologically contradictory. The growth of European intolerance has brought a rise in hate toward Jews in Europe, as well as Muslims. It's more complicated than extremism festering within predominantly Muslim immigrant communities. "There is no clear correlation in Europe between the level of popular anti-Semitism and the size of the Muslim population," the British writer Kenan Malik explained recently in the New York Times. He went on:

The rise of identity politics has helped create a more fragmented, tribal society, and made sectarian hatred more acceptable generally.

At the same time, the emergence of "anti-politics," the growing contempt for mainstream politics and politicians noticeable throughout Europe, has laid the groundwork for a melding of radicalism and bigotry. Many perceive a world out of control and driven by malign forces; conspiracy theories, once confined to the fringes of politics, have become mainstream.

The good news here may be the Gaza poll numbers. While 13 percent is exactly 13 more than what it should be, 85 percent of polled Gazans said they oppose ISIS. That's awfully high, especially considering that Europeans were much less likely to say they held an unfavorable view of the group:



Though Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been arguing that ISIS is indistinguishable from Hamas, the Palestinian group that rules Gaza (he is wrong for a number of reasons), it turns out that at least Palestinians in Gaza see a strong distinction. While the Gaza poll did not ask for Hamas approval/disapproval, it did return favorable-sounding results on two questions: "Was the Palestinian resistance prepared for this aggression [by Israel against Gaza]," to which 58 percent said yes; and "do you support disarming the Palestinian resistance," to which 93 percent said no and 3 percent said yes. Again, Gazans and Europeans were asked slightly different questions by different polling agencies, but it is still awfully striking that more Gazans gave the anti-ISIS response than did Western Europeans.

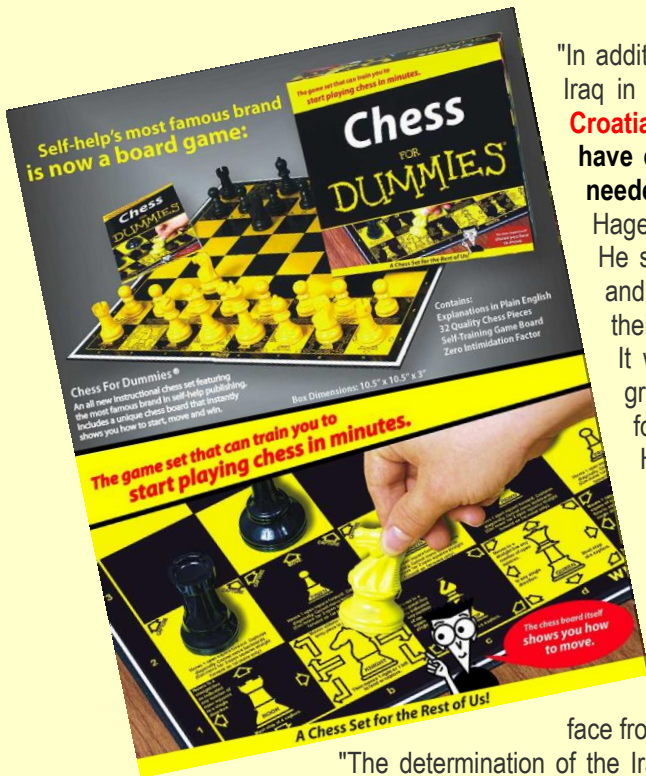
**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** France – another sleeping society that very soon will realize why rabbits are sleeping with one eye open!

**Seven countries join US in supporting Kurds against Islamic State**

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2014/08/seven-countries-join-us-in-supporting.html>

Seven countries, including Italy, France and the UK, have joined the American effort to arm the Kurdish forces in northern Iraq against Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), a terrorist outfit that has gained control of large parts of Syria and Iraq.





"In addition to support from the US and the central government of Iraq in Baghdad, **seven additional nations - Albania, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom - have committed to helping provide Kurdish forces urgently needed arms and equipment,**" US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said.

He said the United States appreciated the willingness of more and more of its allies and partners to support the Iraqi people in their fight against the Islamic State.

It was two weeks ago that commissioned a US-led working group to accelerate resupply efforts to the embattled Kurdish forces in northern Iraq.

Hagel said operations have already begun and will accelerate in the coming days with more nations also expected to contribute.

"I'd like to thank each of these allies for working alongside the United States military," he said.

This multinational effort, which is being coordinated with the Government of Iraq in Baghdad, will greatly assist Kurdish forces in repelling the brutal terrorist threat they

face from the Islamic State militants, he said.

"The determination of the Iraqi people and the international community to counter the threat posed by ISIL is only growing, and the United States looks forward to working with our friends from around the world to assist this effort," he said.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Well let's see how things are: (1) PKK is a terrorist organization (USA); (2) Turkey – a NATO's member state – considers PKK as its #1 enemy; (3) Rich oil fields are in the IS operational area; (4) Syria is not so "bad" anymore (EU); (5) Iran favors an independent Kurdistan in its neighborhood? (6) Iran will join "coalicion" against IS (?); (7) Both US and Iraq failed to stabilize the country at steak. *What an angelic world we are living in!*

**Paycheck for Terrorism: \$5,300 for Suicide Attack**

By Sharyl Attkisson

Source: <http://dailysignal.com/2014/08/21/paycheck-terrorism-5300-suicide-attack/>



Wasfiyeh Idris, mother of suicide bomber Wafa Idris, surrounded by other female family members, holds a portrait of her daughter at her home in the al-Amari refugee camp near the West Bank town of Ramallah. According to evidence presented at a terrorism trial today, families of suicide bombers received payments about four times the average annual Palestinian income. (Photo: Awad/Newscom)

For the first time, startling details are being made public about the millions of dollars funneled from Middle East charities to Islamic terrorists and their families.

**Families of Islamic suicide bombers received a \$5,300 payment.**



The money was used to reward terrorists and their families after attacks on Israelis and U.S. nationals

## Paychecks for Terrorism

**\$5,300** ► families of suicide bombers  
 ↗ 4X average annual Palestinian income of \$1,600

**\$2,655** ► martyr was wounded but not killed

**\$1,325** ► families of martyrs arrested and jailed

(S) DailySignal.com

visiting Israel between 2000 and 2005 during the second intifada or Palestinian uprising. The evidence was presented today in a landmark case in New York federal court. Three hundred U.S. nationals claim Arab Bank knowingly provided financial services to terrorists and their financiers in violation of the U.S. anti-terrorism law. Arab Bank contends it did not knowingly serve terrorists. Palestinians shout as they follow an empty coffin for suicide bomber Wafa Idris. Middle East charities are under scrutiny for financially rewarding families for the suicide attacks. (Photo: Abbas Momani/Newscom) Bank documents reveal an elaborate system for which Amman, Jordan-based Arab Bank served as the center point. Some Israelis refer to

the bank as the “Grand Central Station of terrorist financing.”

For example, bank documents allegedly show that a dozen Middle Eastern charities with links to the terrorist group Hamas and other radical Islamic groups transferred \$32 million to Arab Bank during the second intifada. The money was then allegedly paid out to families of suicide bombers and other Palestinians who engaged in acts of terrorism against Jews.

An additional charity, the Saudi Committee for the Support of the Intifada al Quds, sent nearly \$100 million through Arab Bank. The plaintiff's analysis of bank records indicates \$32 million of it ended up being distributed as cash payments to martyrs and their families, including the families of suicide bombers, and the rest was distributed to other Hamas-controlled charities.

**According to evidence presented by the plaintiffs today, based on bank documents, families of suicide bombers received a \$5,300 payment, or about four times the average annual Palestinian income at the time of \$1,600. If a martyr was wounded but not killed, he received \$2,655. If a martyr was arrested and jailed, the family received \$1,325. The recipients simply showed up at an Arab Bank branch, presented identification, and received the cash.**

That's where the two sides sharply differ.

Arab Bank's attorney told jurors in opening statements last week that the Saudi Committee was a legitimate humanitarian group that was never a U.S.-designated terrorist organization. Arab Bank also claimed that any business it may have conducted with terrorists or terrorist groups was limited in nature and entirely unintentional, due to typos or mistakes in screening.

Under U.S. law, it's illegal for banks to do business with designated terrorist entities.

In 2005, Arab Bank settled a U.S. Treasury Department investigation into alleged money laundering and terrorist financing by paying a \$24 million fine without admitting wrongdoing.

The plaintiffs in the New York trial are seeking monetary damages and financial penalties from Arab Bank.

*Sharyl Attkisson, an Emmy award-winning investigative journalist, is a senior independent contributor to The Daily Signal. She is the author of the forthcoming book, "Stonewalled."*



## Majority of 2013 terrorist attacks occurred in just a few countries

Source: [http://www.start.umd.edu/news/majority-2013-terrorist-attacks-occurred-just-few-countries?utm\\_source=START%20Announce&utm\\_campaign=e4cff819b3-START\\_Newsletter\\_Aug2014&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a60ca8c769-e4cff819b3-14081393](http://www.start.umd.edu/news/majority-2013-terrorist-attacks-occurred-just-few-countries?utm_source=START%20Announce&utm_campaign=e4cff819b3-START_Newsletter_Aug2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a60ca8c769-e4cff819b3-14081393)

The majority of terrorist attacks occurring in 2013 remained isolated in just a few countries, according to the Global Terrorism Database, which is generated by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) based at the University of Maryland. With the addition of nearly 12,000 terrorist attacks in 2013, the database now includes more than 125,000 events dating back to 1970 and remains the most comprehensive unclassified database of terrorist attacks around the world.

### 2013 Terrorist attacks

In 2013, 11,952 terrorist attacks resulted in 22,178 fatalities (including perpetrator deaths) and 37,529 injuries across 91 countries. More than half of all attacks (54%), fatalities (61%) and injuries (69%) occurred in **just three countries: Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan.**



By wide margins, the highest number of fatalities (7,046), attacks (2,852) and injuries (15,736) took place in Iraq. The average lethality of attacks in Iraq was 34 percent higher than the global average and 30 percent higher than the 2012 average in Iraq.

"It is important to note that increases in terrorism in 2013 were geographically concentrated in many of the same places which saw high levels of political violence in 2012," said Gary LaFree, START Director and professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice. "The list of countries that experienced the most attacks remained virtually unchanged over the past two years-terrorism is generally getting worse in the places where it has been bad for several years."

While terrorism remained heavily concentrated in the same parts of the world, the countries within those regions experienced some notable changes. In 2013, total attacks increased for Iraq, Pakistan, the Philippines, Syria, Egypt, Libya and Lebanon; and decreased for Nigeria and Turkey. The most lethal single attack in 2013 took place in September in Nigeria when members of Boko Haram set up illegal checkpoints and killed 142 civilians.



10 countries with the most terrorist attacks, 2013

Country	Attacks	Fatalities
Iraq	2852	7046
Pakistan	2212	2891
Afghanistan	1443	3697
India	690	464
Philippines	652	432
Thailand	477	253
Yemen	424	622
Nigeria	341	2003
Somalia	331	641
Egypt	315	243

Despite the devastating attack at the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013, which killed three and wounded more than 200, U.S. citizens remained comparatively safe from terrorism. Worldwide, 17 U.S. civilians were killed by terrorist attacks in 2013 (including contractors), which is .07 percent of all terrorism fatalities in 2013.

According to LaFree, “these results confirm long-term regional trends that show rising numbers of attacks in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia and diminishing numbers of attacks in North America and Western Europe.”

**Perpetrator groups**

Information about the perpetrator group responsible was reported for 33 percent of terrorist attacks in 2013.

Although al-Qaida central has only been responsible for two known attacks since 2008 (both in 2011), seven of the 10 deadliest terrorist groups in the world are affiliated to some extent with the organization. These include the Taliban, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant/al-Qaida in Iraq, Boko Haram, al-Shabaab, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, al-Nusrah Front, and al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

**10 most lethal terrorist organizations, 2013**

Group	# of Fatalities
Taliban*	2718
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant/Al-Qaida in Iraq*	1868
Boko Haram*	1731
Al-Shabaab*	735
Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)*	710
Al-Nusrah Front*	707
Lashkar-e-Jhangvi	404
Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)*	368
David Yau Yau Militia	194
New People's Army (NPA)	156

\*al-Qaida affiliated

**GTD improvements**

With the addition of the 2013 data, the GTD team also updated the database to include:

- Completed geocoding for historical attacks in ten countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, dating back to 1970.





- Improved classification of multiple attacks that are coordinated in a single event. This includes identifying pre-1998 attacks as part of coordinated events and linking related attacks by Event ID number throughout the entire dataset.
- Identification of cases that lack clarity about whether the GTD inclusion criteria are satisfied (“doubt terrorism proper” and “alternative designation” variables) for pre-1998 attacks.
- Updated information for thousands of historical cases to improve consistency and accuracy, including reviewing the inclusion criteria for all historical events, and adding more detailed information on casualty data for the 9/11 attacks.

More information about the new variables can be found in the GTD Codebook. For questions about any of the 2014 updates, contact the GTD at [gtd@start.umd.edu](mailto:gtd@start.umd.edu).

### Interpreting the data

GTD data files and documentation are available for download from the START website for users who would like to conduct custom analysis of the data.


Beginning with 2012 data collection, START made several important changes to the Global Terrorism Database collection methodology, improving the efficiency and comprehensiveness of the process and access to source materials. In general, comparisons of aggregate statistics over time and between locations-- and their implications for the state of international security and global counterterrorism efforts-- should be interpreted with caution due to considerable variation in the availability of source materials.

The GTD is compiled and maintained by START through research grants awarded to the University of Maryland by the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate’s Office of University Programs, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Counterterrorism, and the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate’s Resilient Systems Division.

## A Tale of Two Caliphates

By William Braniff and Ryan Pereira

Source: [http://www.start.umd.edu/news/tale-two-caliphates?utm\\_source=START+Announce&utm\\_campaign=e4cff819b3-START\\_Newsletter\\_Aug2014&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a60ca8c769-4cff819b3-14081393](http://www.start.umd.edu/news/tale-two-caliphates?utm_source=START+Announce&utm_campaign=e4cff819b3-START_Newsletter_Aug2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a60ca8c769-4cff819b3-14081393)

**START**  **START was recently asked to give a talk for the intelligence community comparing and contrasting the Islamic State’s vision for the caliphate with that of al-Qa’ida’s senior leadership.** As we prepared for the talk, key points of divergence became apparent, not just for their respective visions for the Caliphate, but also regarding the operations and strategies that support those visions.

### The Caliphate

For al-Qa’ida senior leadership, “the Caliphate” is a master-frame that it dangles well out in front of violent Islamist groups the world-over, hoping to align their otherwise dispersed and diverse violent campaigns on azimuths that converge in the triumphant, albeit distant, future. The Caliphate is a conceptual destination; a grandiose victory that signals the onset of global conquest in which all of the world’s territories will be governed by their interpretation of Islam.

For the Islamic State, by comparison, it is the reality of an extant Caliphate and its associated obligations that will purify Islam, rally dispersed actors to make the hijra, and ready Muslims for the apocalyptic military battle with the West in the Levant. The Caliphate’s growth in size and strength is seen as the means to the end of a final decisive military confrontation with the West. Where al-Qa’ida and its associated movement summons fighters to active jihadist fronts, Caliph Ibrahim called upon doctors, jurists and engineers to build the institutions of the caliphate. Primed by the online discourse of the last ten years, aided by person-to-person social media interactions and inspired by the Islamic State’s advances on the ground, fighters claiming that “We Are All ISIS” mobilize to join the Islamic State independently or from within existing Islamist political networks (like Sharia4Belgium and al-Muhajiroun in European states), without the Islamic State having to



establish an extensive network of on-the-ground recruiters in European and American cities.



The graphic above shows the governance areas for the caliphate that al Qaeda has claimed it is in the process of creating through the jihads of its branches. The exact boundaries of these areas are open to discussion, but the names and general territories are as described by al Qaeda.

Source: <http://www.barenakedislam.com/2013/02/17/confidential-letter-from-al-qaeda-told-jihadists-in-mali-to-hide-their-global-caliphate-agenda/>



Expansive ambitions ... This map purports to show the extent of ISIS's intended "new caliphate".

### Operations

Al-Qa'ida's kinetic operations target the "far enemy," the West, above all other targets. Viewing their organization as the vanguard of the jihad movement, al-Qa'ida seeks to use spectacular, mass-casualty terrorist attacks to incite a heavy-handed military response from Western governments. These state responses would seemingly evidence the War on Islam that al-Qa'ida portrays in its propaganda, thereby polarizing the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds



and enabling the jihadists to mobilize resources for a civilizational conflict. Al-Qa'ida strategist, Abu Bakr Naji, famously referred to this process as "awakening the masses." For al-Qa'ida's provocation to be effective, foreign governments must play their scripted roles in this cycle of violence, hence al-Qa'ida's preference for sensational attacks that are politically difficult for Western nation-states to ignore.

Before, during and after the Sunni awakening in Iraq, al-Qa'ida senior leadership discouraged Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's internecine violence in favor of attacks against the occupying forces. In recent years and in various countries, amorphous front groups with names like Ansar al-Sharia have worked alongside of other Sunni jihadists and insurgents, many with divergent ideological orientations. These front organizations are designed to provide basic social services to local populations and to engage in da'wa, the promulgation of their religious ideology. For al-Qa'ida, it is not yet time to purify Islam by force. Even attacks against the Shi'a should be moderated until the jihadists can regain Muslims' loyalties.

By contrast, the Islamic State has thus far opted to deter full-scale Western intervention in Iraq and Syria while engaging in aggressive internecine violence to purge local challengers. When President Obama deployed U.S. military advisors to Iraq, the Islamic State threatened that #CalamityWillBefallUS via Twitter should the U.S. escalate its involvement in the fight. In response to recent U.S. airstrikes, the Islamic State released a video of the murder of journalist James Foley and threatened to murder journalist Steven Sotloff should airstrikes continue. While limited intervention may serve to bolster the legitimacy and recruitment efforts of the Islamic State, as it can weather such a storm, baiting a large-scale intervention is not in their best interests.

Instead of the far enemy, the Islamic State's military operations have focused on attacking competitors in their midst who do not submit to their ideological and organizational primacy, and seizing the resources necessary to build the institutions of the Caliphate. Operations are not only used to seize important border crossings, dams, and oil fields or to weaken competing militias in territorial strongholds, but also to purify Islam by force, using brutal public executions and amputations to intimidate and deter potential rivals. The caliphate's construction is predicated upon the rigid enforcement of the Islamic State's interpretation of Islamic law in strongholds like the city of Raqqa in Syria. Unlike al-Qa'ida's more accommodating stance in the post Arab-spring world, which resembles Abu Bakr Naji's guidance for "managing savagery" in the early stages of a security vacuum, the Islamic State has continued the practices of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who attacked the Shia, secularists, non-violent Islamist parties, and Sunni-tribesmen that did not subordinate themselves to al-Qa'ida in Iraq. These practices reflect Naji's guidance for how to deal with "other gangs and parties" farther along in the process of managing these tumultuous places. Naji argues, "We must drag everyone into the battle in order to give life to those who deserve to live and destroy those who deserve to be destroyed."

### Strategy

Al-Qa'ida is waging a protracted war of attrition against the West, specifically aiming to bleed the United States. Given the failure of local terrorist groups to overthrow their respective apostate regimes in the 1980s and 1990s, al-Qa'ida senior leadership reasoned that American support was the apostate regimes' "center of gravity." If they were able to attrite the American economic, military, or political will to remain engaged in the Muslim world, local jihadists could overpower the apostates. To wage this war of attrition, al-Qa'ida aims to reorient the violence of militant organizations and individuals in various locations around the world, focusing their wrath on far-enemy targets like Western embassies, businesses and tourist destinations within their own states. Al-Qa'ida's operations focus on the far-enemy because they need the U.S. to respond militarily in as many locations as possible, overextending itself and spending precious resources, all the while generating greater levels of anti-American sentiment from local Muslim populations in return, until continued U.S. engagement in the Muslim world becomes prohibitive.

The Islamic State is not currently waging a strategy of attrition, but one of outbidding. It is using its military superiority to eliminate or subjugate rival insurgent groups and non-violent communities in Iraq and Syria that could eventually pose a threat to the authority the Islamic State seeks to impose. Instead of inviting Muslim vs. Western violence and banking on that conflict to polarize communities and mobilize resources, it is benefiting from the resources already being mobilized by the sectarian polarization that is taking



place in Iraq, Syria and beyond, which they actively seek to exacerbate. The Islamic States is willing and able to use extreme violence to carve out control at the expense of its rivals, and then to consolidate its hold on the resources pouring into the conflict.

### Implications

If sectarian conflict proves to be a greater means for insurgents to mobilize resources and destabilize apostate regimes than al-Qa'ida's far-enemy centered war of attrition, the model presented by the Islamic State will supplant that of al-Qa'ida. The Islamic State's rapid military successes against the "Safavids" and their allied Shia militias are portrayed to resemble the Prophet Muhammad's rapid military successes after leaving Medina to conquer Mecca, causing the Islamic State's dedicated foot soldiers to see their efforts as favored by God. As sectarian conflicts spread, jihadist groups will foster and exploit them. The West will be relegated to the role of observer, less frequently targeted (at least initially) but poorly positioned to take any meaningful action to protect itself or others. The difficulty of coordinating and resolving the competing interests and actions of numerous external actors like Iran and Hezbollah, not to mention among America's Persian Gulf allies, complicates any potential U.S. intervention. Sectarian violence may paralyze the West's ability to engage in the Middle East (as it has in the Levant) where the Sunni-Shi'a demographic split would allow for larger scale sectarian conflict, severing regional ties more successfully than al-Qa'ida operations to date. In this case, the Islamic State will also serve as an agent of change for al-Qa'ida and its associated movement, which will have no alternative but to evolve in potentially unforeseen ways, or perish.

If the Islamic State's caliphate project fails, however, their presence on the fringe of the radical spectrum may serve to make al-Qa'ida and its associated movement look more legitimate by comparison. This fringe effect could benefit al-Qa'ida in two ways. First, as the international security community hones in on the Islamic State it could result in increased freedom of maneuver in the short-term, the very time when the crisis of legitimacy brought on by the Islamic State has created a tremendous incentive for al-Qa'ida to conduct a successful attack against the West. The U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan and ongoing instability in the Pakistani tribal belts may provide the requisite safe-haven for al-Qa'ida to hatch such an attack. Perhaps ironically, the presence of large numbers of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria drawn in by the Islamic State and other organizations may also provide al-Qa'ida with an opportunity to turn one or more of these individuals around to attack the West. Second, an al-Qa'ida perceived to be more legitimate, discerning and focused on the "true enemies of Islam" may secure greater funding and popular support in the long-term.

*William Braniff is the Executive Director at START. He previously served as the Director of Practitioner Education and an Instructor at West Point's Combating Terrorism Center (CTC). There he led the practitioner education program, the nation's largest provider of counterterrorism education to federal, state and local governmental audiences. Braniff is a graduate of the United States Military Academy where he received his bachelor's degree. Following his Company Command as an Armor Officer in the U.S. Army, Braniff attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) where he received a master's degree in international relations. Upon graduation, Bill worked in the nuclear counterterrorism field at the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, and as a research associate with the CTC Harmony Project at West Point. Braniff lectures frequently for counterterrorism audiences including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Joint Special Operations University, National Defense University, the United States Attorneys' Office and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In June of 2013, he testified before Congress on American attitudes towards terrorism and counterterrorism. Braniff has also taken a keen interest in the field of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). He has consulted with the Department of Justice, the FBI and the National Security Staff, playing a key role in an interagency working group dedicated to the topic. Braniff is also heavily involved in public education. His speaking engagements include several Council on Foreign Relations and World Affairs Council events in cities around the country. In May of 2010, Bill took part in the National September 11th Museum and Memorial Speaker Series and is featured in the Museum's educational webcast series. He has been interviewed on numerous occasions by National Public Radio, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and by a host of additional international, national and local print and radio media outlets.*



**Going the distance: does Islamic State have staying power?**

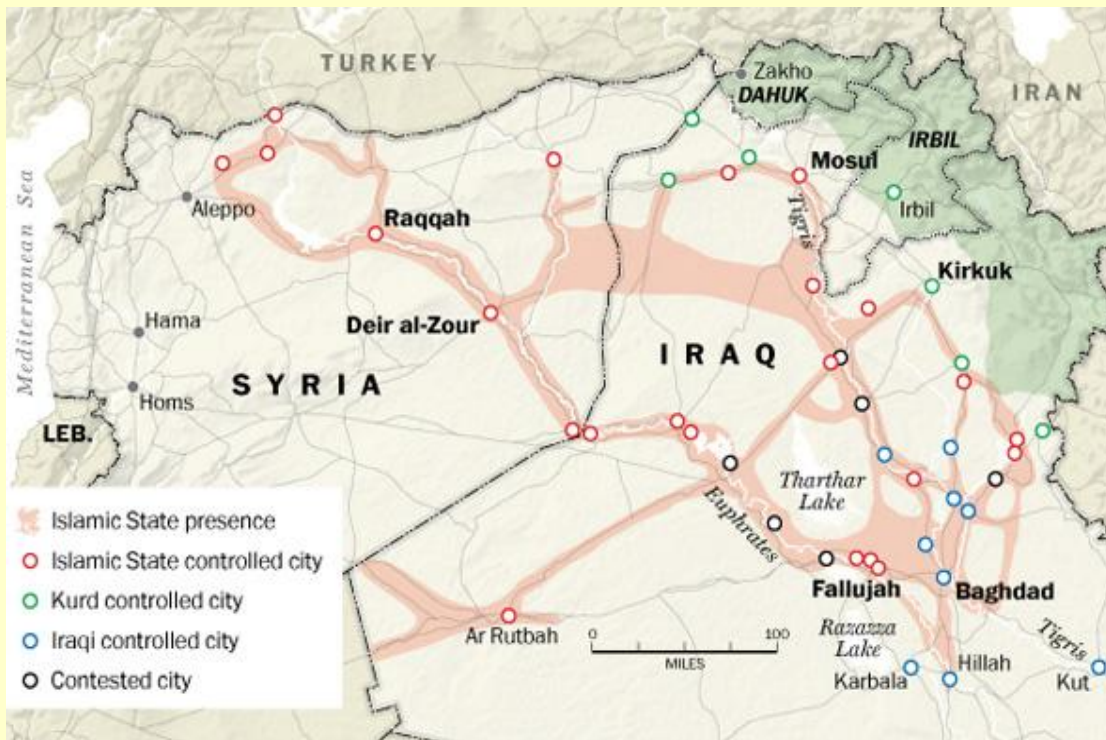
By Denis Dragovic

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140828-going-the-distance-does-islamic-state-have-staying-power>

The rise of Islamic State (IS) across parts of the Middle East has galvanized the international community in a way not seen since September 11. But before a military response is considered, Western nations need to ask whether IS has staying power. Its spectacular growth may be hiding a dysfunctional governing apparatus that could

**History tells us these criteria — not democratic niceties, secularism, or a moderate hand — will make or break IS.**

In recent times, the efforts of Islamic militants to establish public security have had mixed results. The Islamic Courts Union in Somalia, originating from a network of courts that brought order to a war-torn country, was



quickly self-destruct, weakening any justification for a pre-emptive western military response.

If IS is already headed towards implosion, a military response could hasten its demise. But if a functional state with a growing constituency is emerging, military confrontation with the West will only build its legitimacy and help to mobilize new recruits. Identifying which applies in this case is the key question that decision-makers must determine.

Establishing a functional state will depend upon the militants' ability to transition the skills gained in fighting wars to those required for governance. In particular, success will be necessary in three areas: establishing public security, delivering basic goods and services, and creating a perception of legitimacy.

welcomed despite the harsh enforcement of sharia law as it brought stability and a consistent application of law.

Others such as Zarqawi's al-Qaeda in Iraq imploded not long after taking control of western Iraq, largely because its brand of violence was wanton. There was no method to his madness. The exhibition of violence that has so appalled the West, as long as it is directed in support of public security, will contribute to IS's staying power.

As far as the provision of basic needs, the inability of Islamic militants to provide for the people has brought down established groups. Hamas's 2006 Palestinian election win was largely seen as a revolt against the corruption of the



ruling Fatah party and its inability to deliver services to Gazans.

However, Gaza's isolation got the best of Hamas, preventing it from delivering its promised improvements in Gazans' economic circumstances. As a result, Hamas's popularity diminished, revived only through bursts of conflict with Israel. Today, Fatah once again is Gaza's preferred government as Hamas proved itself no better in managing an isolated economy than its predecessors.

Lastly, the legitimacy gained fighting holy wars is often lost as warriors transition to governing and new-found power corrupts. The Taliban in Afghanistan came to power in response to the chaos of a country in disintegration, divided into fiefdoms run by warlords where random threats to life, criminal activity and corruption ruled. Its original proposition to the people was as simple students restoring peace and order.

Less than five years later, the Taliban's welcome was worn thin. The corruption driven by the opium trade and a perception of being Pakistani puppets undermined its legitimacy.

For IS, anecdotal reports suggest it has succeeded in re-establishing a functional economy with markets and goods available to residents across areas of their control. It has pushed out warlords and profiteers and punished criminals. According to one report, tax officials offer receipts for payments that are less than the bribes previously paid to the Assad regime.

Fundamentalist edicts determining the law may seem antiquated and counterproductive.

However, if the perception of purity and holiness is applied, for example to combat corruption — a particularly hated element of life in Iraq and Syria — the results can be very effective. This transition to governing has been made all the more viable with IS's takeover of Mosul. Its considerable financial resources have made IS one of the richest terrorist organizations in the world.

**Snippets of information such as these suggest that IS is likely to last, especially as its power is buttressed by considerable support from Iraq's disenfranchised Sunni Arabs.**

Returning to the three critical factors for a functional state, any direct military involvement would only contribute to strengthening IS's legitimacy in the eyes of its constituency, while the extreme brand of sharia law is unlikely to create a security vacuum that would weaken public security. The only remaining option to decision-makers is to weaken IS's ability to monopolize the provision of basic needs to the people.

This option is morally fraught. It impacts those who are passive bystanders swept up in the turmoil of the Middle East rather than the active participants — the militants. But considering the extreme nature of the threat to this and future generations under their rule and those within their reach, as well as IS's breaches of the most basic and universally held codes of morality, it may well be that in this case, the ends could justify the means.

*Denis Dragovic is Adjunct Lecturer in International Development at University of Melbourne.*

### **New 3D technology helps in identifying long-distance threats**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140828-new-3d-technology-helps-in-identifying-longdistance-threats>

At present, surveillance systems have difficulty capturing even 2D images at long range under normal sunlight conditions. **The ability to extract high-resolution 3D video information up to hundreds of meters away, particularly in bright sunshine, would be a major advance. It would have immediate applications in the security and defense industries,** for example for long-distance face-recognition, improved identification of left

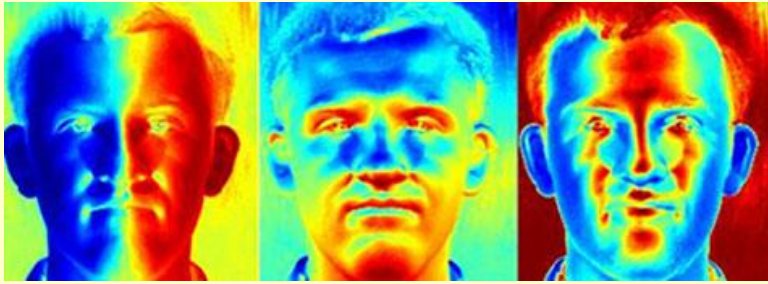
luggage, or the detection of concealed weapons.

Mel Smith, director of UWE's Center for Machine Vision, said, "This study will test the feasibility of combining photometric stereo with recent developments in sensor and illumination technology.

"We are going to build a demonstrator system able to operate both at close range and



at long distance, and will test it in realistic outdoor environments during night and daytime.



**“The 3D information is extracted using novel black silicon sensor technology by analyzing multiple images artificially illuminated from different directions. The resulting 3D representation can be relit or rotated so it can be examined from different angles, even if the original detail was saturated with light.”**

A UWE release reports that there are many potential applications for this technology, but CCTV is an obvious one.

Glynn Wright, CEO of Aralia Systems Ltd., said, “This new approach combines novel detector technology and image processing techniques and would be an important advance

for the CCTV market. The device could be built into existing security networks.

“There is a need to be able to observe and monitor sites such as ports, airports, shopping centers, embassies, government offices, and energy companies under all natural lighting conditions including bright sunlight or total darkness, or where there is smoke or fog. Using an enhanced remote system like this would reduce the need for a physical security presence.”

The research forms a continuation of the link-up between UWE Bristol’s Center for Machine Vision, part of the Bristol Robotics Laboratory, and Aralia Systems Ltd., and is funded by the U.K.’s innovation agency, the Technology Strategy Board.

The researchers say they expect that these improvements would lead to cost savings due to fewer false alarms and a reduction in fraudulent insurance claims, as well as increasing safety for citizens and the deterrence of criminal or terrorist activity.



**Free on-line course – 2015**

Source: <https://www.coursera.org/course/understandingterror>



**Understanding Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat**

Registration is now open for START’s Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on “Understanding Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat,” which will run Jan. 12-March 9, 2015. The eight-week course, offered through the University of Maryland and Coursera, will explore questions relating to the who, what and how of terrorism studies by introducing students to cutting edge research and the experts investigating these topics.

The START course will be led by START Director and Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Gary LaFree and START Executive Director William Braniff. Through lectures, guest lectures and readings, START will apply its multi-disciplinary and mixed-method approach to research in this course, utilizing theory and quantitative and qualitative research from a range of the social and behavioral sciences including Criminology, Psychology, Political Science and Communications Studies.

Throughout the course, students will work with START’s Global Terrorism Database (GTD), the largest database of terrorist incidents in the world, learning its capabilities and developing basic skills in searching and utilizing sets of terrorism data.

All participants in this course are eligible to partake in the signature track option for a minimal fee to earn official recognition of course completion from the University of Maryland and Coursera upon passing the course.

The course will begin with a unit examining widely held myths about terrorism and utilizing empirical data to discuss the realities of broad trends and patterns in terrorist attacks over time. The course will then review the psychological factors at play in individual



radicalization and recruitment into terrorism, followed by an analysis of terrorist group dynamics and structure. The course will next look to terrorist operations generally as well as factors that allow terrorist groups to successfully carry out attacks, such as propaganda, use of media, financing, recruitment, and training. The course will conclude by bringing the varied course concepts together through a detailed look at the case of al-Qaida, including the group’s successes, failures, tactics and strategies.

**Funded by a highly competitive seed grant from the University of Maryland, the course first debuted in January 2014 to more than 16,000 students from 179 countries.** “Understanding Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat” was met with highly positive reviews from practitioners, professors and students alike for giving a “nice view of what we are facing in the world today” and allowing students to learn “more about terrorism through this course than in 21 years on the job [in the security industry].”

**Course Syllabus**

**Module 1:** *Introduction - How Do We Study Terrorism?*





**Module 2:** *Individual Radicalization*

**Module 3:** *Group Dynamics*

**Module 4:** *Operations*

**Module 5:** *Putting it all together: Al-Qa’ida Case Study*

**Course at a Glance**

-  8 weeks of study
-  2-3 hours of work / week
-  English
-  English subtitles

**Recommended Background**

No background knowledge is required; however both new and advanced learners will be able to cater the course to their needs with additional optional readings for those more versed in terrorism studies.

**Course Format**

The subject matter will be presented to participants through a series of lectures, including guest segments featuring the researchers from START’s extensive consortium of 52 universities nation-wide. There will also be interactive assignments and quizzes (approximately 1 per week) embedded throughout the course for students to put new knowledge and data visualization and analysis to test.

**Dates**

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**FAQ**



**Will I get a Statement of Accomplishment after completing this class?**

Yes. Students who successfully complete the class with a 70% or higher will receive a Statement of Accomplishment signed by the instructor.

**What resources will I need for this class?**

For this course, all you need is an Internet connection, copies of the texts (all of which can be obtained for free online), and the time to read, write, discuss, and enjoy some cutting-edge research.

**Al-Qaida publication suggests hitlist for terrorists, including MI5 headquarters**

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/29/al-qaida-publication-hitlist-sandhurst-security-terrorist-mi5>



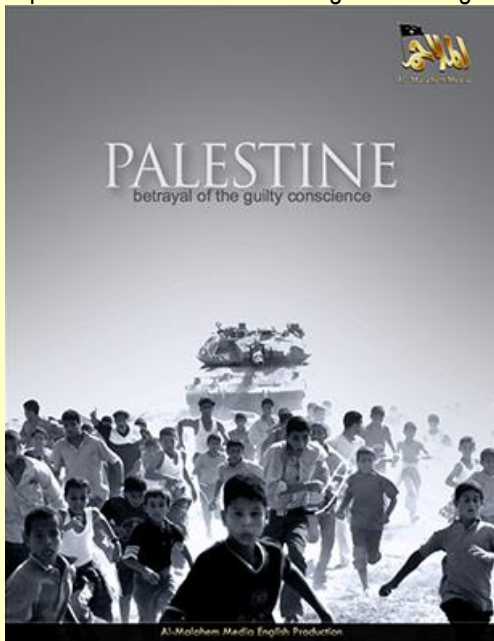
Al-Qaida has published a hitlist of potential targets in Britain, including the military school Sandhurst (photo), MI5’s headquarters and large department stores.

The media arm of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published the hitlist in its English-language magazine, Inspire, which also included a guide to making car bombs.





The nine-page manual, called Palestine: Betrayal of the Guilty Conscience al-Malahem, said big department stores could be targeted "during Friday prayers (Muslims will be praying)".



It also suggested attacks on the Royal military academy at Sandhurst, in Berkshire, and Thames House, the London headquarters of MI5. In the US, there is a suggested list of targets for lone-wolf, or individually executed, terror attacks, including New York's Times Square, casinos and night clubs in Las Vegas, oil tankers and trains, the Georgia Military College, the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and General Atomics defense contractor in San Diego.

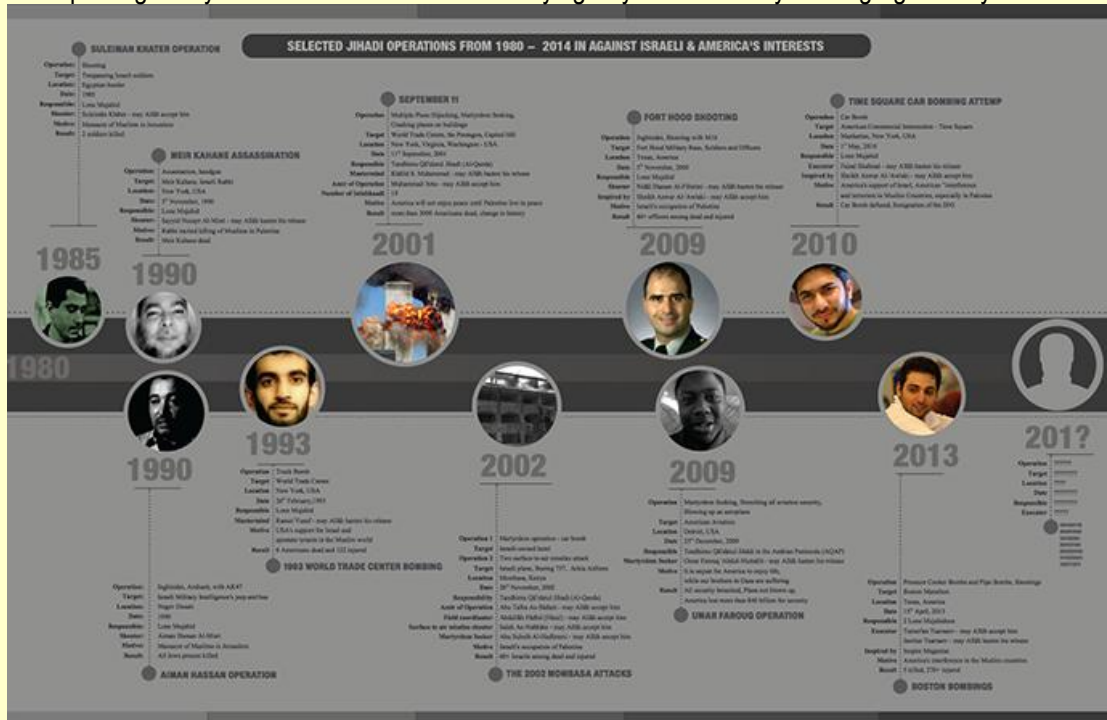
In a statement first issued last week, Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism command said it was aware of the publication and was providing security advice where relevant.

"The MPS counter-terrorism command (SO15) is aware of the publication and appropriate steps have been put in place, including providing security advice where relevant. The public is reminded that viewing, downloading or disseminating extremist material within

the UK may constitute an offence under section 1 and/or 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006."

The publication also included a timeline of jihadi attacks spanning back to 1980, with a blank entry at the date "201?" after the 2013 entry about the Boston marathon bombings.

The al-Qaida booklet went on to praise the "Boston bomber brothers" Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in the passage. "My Muslim brother: we are conveying to you our military training right into your kitchen



to relieve you of the difficulty of travelling to us.

"If you are sincere in your intentions to serve the religion of Allah, then all what you have to do is enter your kitchen and make an explosive device that would damage the enemy if you put your trust in Allah and then use this explosive device properly."

The publication was first noticed by the US thinktank the Middle East Media Research Institute (Memri). Steve Stalinsky, its executive director, said: "Both AQAP and IS [Isis], as well as every other al-Qaida branch and offshoot is relying on US social media companies



including Twitter and YouTube for their cyber-jihad efforts. There could be some envy by AQAP that IS is now getting all the headlines."



**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Change of policy? Or the usual: Jumb! How high? If terrorists decide to turn to soft targets such as tourism infrastructure then Mediterranean countries like Greece, Italy, South France and Spain would be targeted directly. In Greece the majority of illegal immigrants are Sunnis and this poses an extra problem due to the high possibility of jihadis' infiltration from troubled M East. Tourism is what is left in Greece as heavy industry compared with the countries mentioned above. And the consequences would be beyond ancient tragedies... Perhaps after the recent awakening of the snoring British Lion, sleeping Zeus and Ceasar will also follow!

**Main route closed between Medellin and Colombia's Atlantic coast due to 'FARC' attack**

Source: <http://colombiareports.co/main-route-closed-medellin-colombias-atlantic-coast-due-farc-attack/>

The main transport route connecting Colombia's second largest city, Medellin, with the



nation's Atlantic coast region has been closed since midnight Wednesday due to an infrastructure attack. Armed men allegedly from Colombia's largest rebel group, the FARC, set fire to a freight truck near the municipality of Yarumal, leaving a section of the main highway **between Medellin and Cartagena** impassable, according to Colombia's Caracol Radio. "We have closed the highway while a group of anti-explosive experts from the National Army locate possible undetonated explosives," said Antioquia police commander Gustavo Romero. Adding to the chaos were heavy rains and an ensuing landslide a mere 35 miles north on the same highway, near the town of Puerto Valdivia, reported

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RCN Radio.

Earlier Wednesday morning, traffic was reportedly backed up six miles, and local officials had yet to arrive on the scene and assist in clearing the road.

**The Real Worry for India- The Combination of ISI and ISIS**

Source: <http://news.oneindia.in/feature/the-real-worry-for-india-the-combination-of-isi-and-isis-1511186.html>

The complex dynamics of global geopolitics in an ever changing environment requires continuous monitoring and shifting of stances by nations in order to keep national interest unharmed. Over the last few years even as India has been working hard to shore up its defence preparedness along its eastern borders facing China, and appreciably so, the

series of events that India confronted over the last one week or so with respect to massive firing by Pakistan along the Line of Control, may force India to have a relook at its overall defence strategy. The Perennial Nemesis named Pakistan In other words, India not only needs to continue shoring up



its defence preparedness along its eastern borders, but it also at the same time need to massively bolster the firepower of the armed forces along its western borders especially and primarily due to the worsening situation inside Pakistan as well as its resultant intransigence along the border. While the barrage of shelling triggered by Pakistan Army along the Line of Control may apparently seem like just another ceasefire violation, one needs to look at some of the deeper dimensions of the internal politico-religious strifes of Pakistan to realize that what has been started by Pakistan is a calibrated move to appease the radicals inside that nation and that the Pakistan Army is the one who is calling the shots. Therefore, India's goodwill gestures notwithstanding, it would be wise to prepare for a long haul period of face-offs with Pakistan which may not result in a full scale war but skirmishes like the one that happened in Kargil or increased waves of cross border terrorism and a renewed effort to revive it in J&K cannot be ruled out. Is Pakistan appeasing the hardliners? If one looks at the recent comments made by Pervez Musharraf where he termed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as anti-Pakistan, one can clearly see a pattern in which Pakistan's politicians and Army is trying to rake up passions against India even though right from defying all diplomatic protocols and deciding to talk to separatist organizations like Hurriyat to relentless shelling across the Line of Control, it has been Pakistan which has been provoking frictions even though India's response till date has been quite measured. The question thus that needs an answer is why from Musharraf, on trial for several reasons including acts of treasons, and the Pakistan Army are behaving this way? Is there a specific reason as to why Pakistan is trying hard to follow the radical hard-line approach? Is it that there is a protracted effort to appease the hardliners in Pakistan? Are the events of Middle East and the rise of ISIS and their apocalyptic growth forcing Pakistan to take the jingoistic path? Is Pakistan Army scared that if they show a soft approach and allow their own government to continue with efforts of improving relations with India, then



the radical Islamic groups based in Pakistan, most of which have in the past been groomed, trained and funded by ISI, might shift their alliance towards ISIS from ISI? The danger of ISIS and Pakistan challenging India simultaneously In fact if one looks at the scenario of Afghanistan and the manner in which the turmoil and mayhem inside that country is expected to go for the worse after the eventual American exit from that region in the next one year or so, there is a strong possibility of Middle East based ISIS making an effort to expand their footprint in that region and use that as a base for the same purpose for which Al Qaida used it. With some fringe Islamic groups in Pakistan already rooting for ISIS, with situation in Balochistan and the FATA region remaining critical, with Tehreek e Taliban baying for blood of Pakistani establishment, the possibility of ISIS gradually gaining ground in Pakistan and situation for India becoming even more worse cannot be ruled out. The real danger that India faces today is the combination of threat that is now emerging from both ISIS and Pakistan and the possibility of the two combining and posing a bigger threat which cannot be ruled out either. China, no doubt a threat but a much lesser one.... Therefore, even while India has been bracing for a two frontal warfare and preparing for the same with the creation of a Mountain Strike Corps at a cost of around Rs65,000 crore and which would have around 90,000 additional soldiers, India still has less to worry from China primarily because China is today now next only to US in terms of economic size and is a responsible nation with enough knowledge of economic ramifications of getting into a war with India. Pakistan on the other had has no such economic compulsion to prevent tensions because it hardly has an economy to bother about and is almost a failed state with the civilian authorities there having questionable hold of affairs. Today China faces similar problems from violent extremism in some of its provinces as India faces. China has built with toil and perseverance a startling economic miracle which for obvious reasons it would not want



to jeopardize to a maddening war with anyone, something that Pakistan and its radicals, on the contrary, may be itching to do. What India needs to do.... Thus, even while India needs to continue with its shoring up of defences in her eastern borders, the need of the hour is also to vigorously invest in shoring up India's capability in the western borders because it is from there that India faces more threat. India cannot afford to merely have 20 days of ammunitions with the Indian Army as is the case now. It has to go up manifold if India is to feel secure from a violent Pakistan intransigence. Additionally, recent reports make it amply clear that recruitment for ISIS is happening from India as well. India needs to work vigorously to shore up its internal security architecture and not presume the threat of ISIS would remain

restricted to Middle East only. Sooner or later, they would try to move eastward towards India and that is very much a part of their agenda. India needs preemptive capability to nip in the bud all such emerging menaces. The possibility of many of the homegrown jihadi groups like Indian Mujhideen gradually moving into the ISIS fold and posing massive threat for India, cannot be ruled out. Along with shoring up of defences in the western borders, India needs a new internal security architecture to effectively counter the rising threat from within which is now getting more inspired by the rise of ISIS. It is time that terrorism is defined as a national security issue and dealt with accordingly. The threat is grave. The response needs to be equally strong.

### **Substantial – Severe – Critical: Can we trust the terror threat rating?**

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/aug/29/trust-terror-threat-rating-intelligence-agencies>

Friday's decision to raise the level of threat to Britain from terrorism was taken following an objective analysis of intelligence independent of ministers, government officials insist. The decision was taken by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (Jtac), which brings together security and intelligence officers whose task is to examine information relating to international terrorism supplied by MI6, MI5 and GCHQ.

For many months, MI5 and police counter-terrorist officers have been warning of the potential threat posed by Britons returning from Syria or Iraq. Of the estimated 500-plus Britons who have fought with rebel or Islamist groups there, more than half have returned, say security and intelligence sources. Some may have been tasked to attack targets in Britain, others – described as “radicalised self-starters” – may decide to commit terror attacks here. That, anyway, is the risk perceived by the members of Jtac.

We do not know, we will never know, why they decided to raise the terror threat level from “substantial” – when an attack is considered “a strong possibility” – to “severe”, the second highest level and the point at which an attack is considered “highly likely”. The decision does not mean there is any intelligence suggesting

an attack is “imminent” – the criterion for the highest threat level, known as “critical”.

We have to take the judgment on trust. Intelligence, as both officials and ministers admit, is a kind of art form, a question of judgment, and thus – to some extent at least – subjective. This was a point that came across very strongly during the Scott arms-to-Iraq inquiry in the 1990s.

It is now judged that the risk has increased sufficiently to raise the official threat level. For Jtac it is always best, and in its professional interests, to play safe.

The rise in the threat level was announced with great fanfare by the home secretary, Theresa May, and was followed swiftly by an announcement by David Cameron that on Monday, the day parliament returns from its long summer break, the government plans to introduce new powers to strip terror suspects of their passports. The question that raises is what evidence the police and MI5 will need, or will it be possible to use the new powers on the basis of assumption and mere suspicion?

As former senior MI6 officers Sir Richard Dearlove and Richard Barrett have warned, it should not



be assumed that those who return to Britain from Iraq and Syria all intend to commit acts of terrorism here. Moreover, while the new

powers may target symptoms, the issue of what creates a jihadist mentality will need much deeper thoughts and actions.

*Richard Norton-Taylor writes for the Guardian on defence and security and until recently was the paper's security editor. He is a regular broadcaster. He joined the Guardian in 1973 as the newspaper's first European correspondent based in Brussels. He returned to Britain in 1975. He won the Freedom of Information Campaign Award in 1986 and in 1994, and Liberty's Human Rights Award for journalism in 2010. He edits the Guardian Defence and Security blog with Ewen MacAskill.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** I was also always wondering about the public announcement of terrorism threat levels. Security services always (?) know how the situation is and act accordingly. They do not need this because they change the threat level almost on daily basis. So is it for the populace? If it is so: how can populace contribute or even take self protective measures? Have we taught our people on issues like this? Or we are afraid that they will panic (the old good excuse about everything)! Are citizens aware of what to report and to whom? Or even worse: do they know what to do if involved in a real terrorist incident (conventional or asymmetric)? NO THEY DO NOT! So why we bother to inform them that currently we are in SEVERE threat level? To show we care? To show others that we are awake? All answers to my naïve question would be highly appreciated!



**Imminent Terrorist Attack Warning By Feds on US Border**

Source: <http://www.judicialwatch.org/bulletins/imminent-terrorist-attack-warning-feds-us-border/>



**Judicial Watch**

August 29 – **Islamic terrorist groups are operating in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juárez and planning to attack the United States with car bombs or other vehicle born improvised explosive devices (VBIED).** High-level federal

possible leads and sources concerning this imminent terrorist threat.

**Specifically, Judicial Watch sources reveal that the militant group Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) is confirmed to now be operating in Juarez, a famously crime-infested narcotics hotbed situated across**



law enforcement, intelligence and other sources have confirmed to Judicial Watch that a warning bulletin for an imminent terrorist attack on the border has been issued. Agents across a number of Homeland Security, Justice and Defense agencies have all been placed on alert and instructed to aggressively work all









**from El Paso, Texas.** Violent crimes are so rampant in Juarez that the U.S. State Department has issued a number of travel warnings for anyone planning to go there. The last one was issued just a few days ago.



Intelligence officials have picked up radio talk and chatter indicating that the terrorist

the commander-in-chief said this week during a White House press briefing. "I think what I've

ATF	VEHICLE DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM EXPLOSIVES CAPACITY	LETHAL AIR BLAST RANGE	MINIMUM EVACUATION DISTANCE	FALLING GLASS HAZARD
	COMPACT SEDAN	500 Pounds 227 Kilos <i>(In Trunk)</i>	100 Feet 30 Meters	1,500 Feet 457 Meters	1,250 Feet 381 Meters
	FULL SIZE SEDAN	1,000 Pounds 455 Kilos <i>(In Trunk)</i>	125 Feet 38 Meters	1,750 Feet 534 Meters	1,750 Feet 534 Meters
	PASSENGER VAN OR CARGO VAN	4,000 Pounds 1,818 Kilos	200 Feet 61 Meters	2,750 Feet 838 Meters	2,750 Feet 838 Meters
	SMALL BOX VAN <i>(14 FT BOX)</i>	10,000 Pounds 4,545 Kilos	300 Feet 91 Meters	3,750 Feet 1,143 Meters	3,750 Feet 1,143 Meters
	BOX VAN OR WATER/FUEL TRUCK	30,000 Pounds 13,636 Kilos	450 Feet 137 Meters	6,500 Feet 1,982 Meters	6,500 Feet 1,982 Meters
	SEMI-TRAILER	60,000 Pounds 27,273 Kilos	600 Feet 183 Meters	7,000 Feet 2,134 Meters	7,000 Feet 2,134 Meters

groups are going to "carry out an attack on the border," according to one JW source. "It's coming very soon," according to this high-level source, who clearly identified the groups planning the plots as "ISIS and Al Qaeda." An attack is so imminent that the commanding general at Ft. Bliss, the U.S. Army post in El Paso, is being briefed, another source confirms. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not respond to multiple inquiries from Judicial Watch, both telephonic and in writing, about this information.

The disturbing inside intelligence comes on the heels of news reports revealing that U.S. intelligence has picked up increased chatter among Islamist terror networks approaching the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. While these terrorists reportedly plan their attack just outside the U.S., President Obama admits that "we don't have a strategy yet" to combat ISIS. "I don't want to put the cart before the horse,"

seen in some of the news reports suggest that folks are getting a little further ahead of what we're at than what we currently are."

The administration has also covered up, or at the very least downplayed, a serious epidemic of crime along the Mexican border even as heavily armed drug cartels have taken over portions of the region. Judicial Watch has reported that the U.S. Border Patrol actually ordered officers to avoid the most crime-infested stretches because they're "too dangerous" and patrolling them could result in an "international incident" of cross border shooting. **In the meantime, who could forget the famous words of Obama's first Homeland Security Secretary, Janet Napolitano; the southern border is "as secure as it has ever been."**

These new revelations are bound to impact the current debate about the border crisis and immigration policy.

**Government of Canada Releases the 2014 Public Report on the Terrorist Threat to Canada**

Source: <http://www.marketwired.com/press-release/government-canada-releases-2014-public-report-on-terrorist-threat-canada-1942716.htm>

August 29 – The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, today announced the release of the *2014 Public Report on the Terrorist Threat to Canada*.

In 2012, the Government of Canada released *Building Resilience Against Terrorism: Canada's Counter-terrorism Strategy*. This national approach to countering terrorism



provides a single, comprehensive strategy that guides federal departments and agencies to better "Prevent, Detect, Deny and Respond" to terrorist threats, and has proven to be an effective tool in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

The approach laid out in the Strategy also serves to guide the Government's response to an issue of growing importance, and one that is addressed specifically in the 2014 *Public Report*: extremist travellers who pursue terrorism-related activities elsewhere in the world.

In the past year, Canada has seen a small number of individuals with Canadian connections go abroad to take part in terrorism-related activities, putting lives at risk and tarnishing Canada's reputation. These "extremist travellers" often become involved in terrorism-related activities, including fundraising, training and providing other forms of support to terrorist groups.

Terrorism is a despicable crime and will be prosecuted through the diligent efforts of security and law enforcement bodies. Additionally, our Government is also committed to efforts to prevent the radicalization of Canadians to violence and terrorism-related activity. By working with partners and communities, the Government of Canada is contributing to efforts to build prevention capacity, support training and stop

radicalization to violence through targeted intervention at the community level.

The Government of Canada has taken, and will continue to take, all appropriate action to counter terrorist threats, whether they occur at home or abroad. This includes taking action to address travel for terrorism-related purposes.

**Quick Facts**

- A small but notable number of Canadian extremist travellers have gone abroad to participate in terrorism-related activities, including in conflict zones such as Syria, Somalia and Afghanistan.
- The *Combating Terrorism Act*, which came into force on July 15, 2013, created new criminal offences of leaving or attempting to leave Canada for the purposes of committing certain terrorism offences outside Canada.
- Also in 2013, the Government listed six entities under the *Criminal Code* as being associated with terrorism. Listing terrorist entities facilitates the prosecution of perpetrators and supporters of terrorism, and counters terrorist financing.

**Quotes**



*"As a nation, Canada has achieved success in countering terrorism in many ways: through intelligence work, law enforcement and international cooperation, and by working with various communities. Despite these successes, terrorism continues to pose a threat to Canadians, Canadian interests, and our nation as whole."*

*"This year's Public Report on the Terrorist Threat to Canada looks at terrorism developments that are of concern to Canadians and how our Government is responding on their behalf. It builds on an important dialogue we've begun with Canadians, and serves to keep communities informed of this very real threat. Countering terrorism at home and abroad remains a top priority for the Government of Canada, and one we are addressing successfully."*

**The Honourable Steven Blaney,  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness**



## Xinjiang: 'China's Chechnya'

By Gwynne Dyer

Source: <http://lethbridgeherald.com/commentary/opinions/2014/08/17/xinjiang-chinas-chechnya/>

It's not really "China's Chechnya" yet, but the insurgency in Xinjiang is growing fast. Incidents of anti-Chinese violence are getting bigger and much more frequent. Since March, 176 people have been killed in six separate attacks on Chinese police and government officials, local collaborators and ordinary Chinese residents of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in northwestern China, and the

movements of the colonial era, they believe that you have to take the war to the homeland of the "oppressor" if you can. One of those recent attacks was not in Xinkiang but in Kunming in southwestern China, where a band of eight knife-wielding Uighurs killed 29 ordinary Chinese citizens and wounded 143 in the main railway station.

Another standard tactic in this sort of war is the use of violence to deter one's own people from collaborating with the colonial power. On July 30 Jume Tahir, the imam of China's largest mosque, in the city of Kashgar in Xinjiang, was stabbed to death just after leading early morning prayers. His crime? Praising Communist Party policies and blaming the rising tide of violence on Uighur separatists and extremists.

The Uighurs are overwhelmingly Sunni Muslims, and the official Chinese line blames the separatist violence on foreign Islamists who are stirring up the local people. The separatists themselves say that it is a legitimate response to Chinese oppression, and in particular to the Chinese government's policy of flooding Xinjiang with Han Chinese immigrants in an attempt to change the territory's

demographic balance. The truth, as usual, is more complicated.

Xinjiang (literally "New Territory") was conquered by Chinese troops in the 1750s, but the population mix did not change. In the early 19th century a census reported the population as 30 per cent Han Chinese (almost all living north of the Tian Shan mountains) and 60 per cent Uighurs, Turkic-speaking Muslim farmers who accounted for almost the entire population south of the mountains. The rest were Kazakhs, Huis, Mongols and others.

The Uighurs had grown to 75 per cent of the total population by the 1953 census, with many by then living north of the mountains. The Han Chinese had fallen to only six per cent. But now, thanks to large-scale immigration, the Chinese are back up to fully 40 per cent of Xinkiang's population, while the 10 million Uighurs are down to 45 per cent.



authorities don't seem to have a clue what to do about it.

The Uighur attackers have mostly used knives or explosives in their attacks (guns are hard to get in China), but nobody has suggested that they are so technologically backward that their bombs come with long, trailing fuses that have to be lit by hand. Yet Chinese police in Xinjiang last month seized tens of thousands of boxes of matches.

"The confiscation has enabled us to strengthen controls over important elements of public security and thus eliminate potential security threats," said the Kashgar police. The police website in Changji declared that they had acted "to ensure matches would not be used by terrorist groups and extremist individuals to conduct criminal activities." No disrespect intended (well, maybe a little), but these are not serious people.

The rebels, on the other hand, are very serious people. Like most independence





In other words, the numbers will support almost any argument you want to make, if you choose your census dates carefully. But it is certainly



not true that Han Chinese people are newcomers to Xinjiang, and it is probably not true that the Chinese government has a policy of encouraging Han immigration to reduce the Uighurs to a marginal minority.

Chinese officials themselves say that they are trying to develop the Xinjiang economy and raise local living standards, with the (unstated) goal of making people so prosperous and content that they will not even think of “betraying the motherland” by seeking independence. It’s just that a developed economy requires job skills that are not plentiful among the Uighurs, so large numbers of Han Chinese are drawn in to do those jobs. Beijing’s officials make the same argument about Tibet, and they are probably being

sincere about their intentions there, too. They just have a huge cultural blind spot that makes it almost impossible for them to imagine how all this feels to the average Uighur who sees more and more Chinese coming in and getting all the good jobs

Add in all the resentment about the brutal assaults on the Uighurs’ culture and religion that happened during the Cultural Revolution – and continue in a minor key even today, thanks mainly to ignorant government officials who have never before lived outside an exclusively Chinese cultural context. **And now there is also a radical Islamist ideology available, for those who are thinking about rebellion.**

So now it’s getting really serious in Xinkiang: the last big incident, on July 28, saw hundreds of Uighurs storm a police station and government offices armed with knives and axes. Fifty-nine of the attackers were killed and 215 arrested, while 37 (presumably Chinese) civilians were murdered. When you have organized groups doing violence on this scale, you are already in a low-level war.

**It will probably never be as bad as Chechnya, and it is very unlikely that Xinkiang will ever be independent, but it may be a long and ugly counter-insurgency war, with many deaths.** At least they’ve got the matches under control.

*Gwynne Dyer is an independent journalist whose articles on world affairs are published in 45 countries.*

### ISIS says forcing detained pilots to train militants

Source: <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/08/30/ISIS-says-it-forces-abduct-pilots-to-train-fighters.html>



August 30 – The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria said in a recent tweet **it is forcing detained Syrian pilots to train militant fighters to fly stolen aircraft**, CNN Arabic reported on Saturday.

In an account reportedly associated with the militant group, ISIS said in a tweet the pilots were abducted when the group gained control over the **Tabqa military airbase in Raqqqa Province.**

**Tabqa military airbase in Raqqqa Province.**

ISIS seized the



airbase earlier this month. The major airfield houses warplanes, helicopters, tanks and other artillery and ammunition, which were also confiscated by ISIS, according to several media reports.



الطيران الذي كان يقصف به النظام التصيري المسلمين .. غنيمة بيد المجاهدين

Two abandoned Syrian Airforce MiG fighters in a shelter



صواريخ الطيران التي كانت تقصف بيوت المسلمين .. غنيمة للمجاهدين بفضل الله

Missiles seized by the Islamic State at Tabqa



مستودعات أسلحة النظام التصيري غنائم للدولة الإسلامية

ISIS did not provide any information about the nature of the training, according to CNN Arabic.

#### Crates of seized munitions

A U.N. investigation has found that ISIS forces are waging a campaign to instill fear, which includes amputations, public executions and whippings in their northern Syria stronghold.



**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Balad and neighboring Taji base are likely some of the next targets of the ISIS campaign. Both of these bases are critical military sites for the Iraqi Army. Neutralizing one or both would demonstrate that ISIS can beat the Iraqi Army strategically. This is in part because a defeat for Iraq's army at Balad would also deprive Iraq's military of the air assets it already has—and is set to acquire. When the United States left Balad, they essentially left everything in place. It sounds strange that no analyst foresaw this possibility and that no pre-emptive strike delivered (at least to destroy the runways). Besides who needs to train new pilots when captured pilots can exchange their lives (and that of their families) with operational work? Not to mention a pistol in the back of their head from a co-pilot...

**Breezing through Gatwick, the five smiling Britons boarding a Thomas Cook flight to join the Islamic State jihad in Syria**

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2733438/Breezing-Gatwick-five-smiling-Britons-boarding-Thomas-Cook-flight-join-Islamic-State-jihad-Syria.html#ixzz3Bk58f3Hp>

Arriving at Gatwick laden with luggage, they look like any other tourists setting off on a fortnight's holiday to Turkey. In reality, the smiling Britons captured on CCTV were heading to Syria to fight their so-called 'holy war'. Muhammad Hamidur Rahman, 25, Mashadur Choudhury, 31, Assad Uzzaman, 25, Mehdi Hassan, 19, and Mamunur Roshid had booked cheap tickets on a Thomas Cook flight to the Turkish resort of Antalya on October 8.



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Chilling: CCTV footage has emerged which reportedly shows five British jihadis walking through Gatwick Airport on their way to Syria. Second left is Mashadur Choudhury, far right is Muhammad Hamidur Rahman

Calling themselves the **Britani Brigade Bangladeshi Bad Boys**, the fanatics, **all from Portsmouth**, had been seduced by glamorous tales of martyrdom to join Islamic State – formerly Isis – establishing a Muslim caliphate in the Middle East. Today Rahman, a shop assistant at Primark until he was sacked, is reportedly dead, killed in a gun battle last month.





Meanwhile, Choudhury, a one-time council official turned swindler who enjoyed using £200-a-night prostitutes, is languishing in a British jail.

He failed the selection process to join Isis and was thrown out of its training camp in disgrace.

On his return, he was arrested and became the first Briton to be found guilty of travelling to Syria to fight in the civil war.

The whereabouts of the other three are unclear, but they are still thought to be fighting with IS.

The ease with which they were able to slip over Turkey's porous border with Syria has caused alarm in the West and prompted calls to Ankara to make sure it is closed.

**Up to 30 radicalised Britons a month** are now travelling to Syria and Iraq across the frontier – dubbed the Jihad Express – that has become a gateway to IS.

The number has increased markedly in the last ten weeks as the profile of the group has been raised by its well-run propaganda machine and catalogue of barbaric crimes.

Monitoring and electronic surveillance has shown that far from putting would-be recruits off, the beheadings and other atrocities are drawing more people to join IS.

Intelligence agencies fear the number of Britons and other Europeans going to fight could increase further if IS extremists succeed in securing a stretch of the Turkish border with north-western Syria as a safe area through which recruits can safely travel.

Disturbingly, a large force of extremists is reported to be moving towards the border in convoys of armoured trucks captured from Iraqi military forces.

Their goal is to provide a guaranteed gateway through which new fighters can pass safely.

**The 130-mile frontier has so far been key to allowing recruits into Syria, as well as smuggled oil and weapons.**

Much of the border area is difficult to patrol or to police, a mixture of rugged mountain passes and plains over which **an estimated 800 to 1,000 Britons have travelled**. It is also the route used by most of the 250 Britons whom officials say have returned to the UK.

A British jihadist feared to be one of the militants behind US journalist James Foley's killing boasted of how simple it was to sneak unseen into Syria.

Abu Abdullah al-Britani was asked by a reporter posing as a potential fighter whether he faced problems if he flew from Britain to Turkey before illegally crossing the border. The jihadist replied: 'Na, it's pretty easy.'

IS's UK recruits are told how to leave Britain – **always travelling to Turkey** via two other countries to avoid suspicion.

They are also told who to contact in Turkey and which hotels and safe houses to use. Some travel as tourists but many end up at Hatay airport, ten miles from the border with Syria.

Once safely in accommodation they make contact using a telephone number or email address. Within 48 hours they are usually picked up by motorcycle or taxi and taken across the border to IS training camps.

Unofficial operations are on-going to track the militants in the border area. Intelligence services are monitoring Britons and other foreign fighters but Turkey has been reluctant to stop anyone from crossing.

For months it has allowed weapons and supplies destined for recognised Syrian opposition groups to cross. European governments have been frustrated that little appears to have been done.

Dr Hisham al-Hashimi, an Iraqi expert on IS, said: 'The Turkish border is the only way to smuggle oil, weapons and foreign fighters in.'

'If it is closed, it will cut three things: funding, an entrance for the foreign fighters and links to Europe which they are trying to open.'

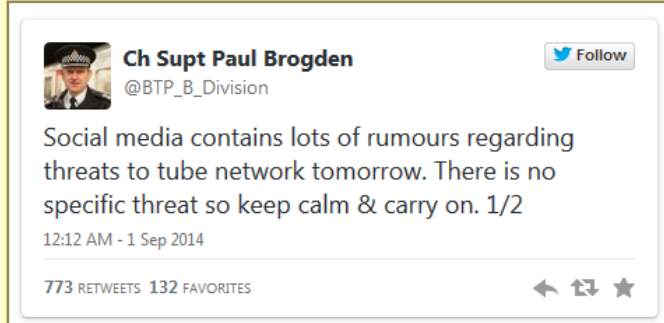


**Hoax London terror attack message causes panic**

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11067185/Hoax-London-terror-attack-message-causes-panic.html>

September 01 – The Metropolitan police has been forced to quash rumours of an imminent terror attack on London after a hoax message was distributed.

The text, which was widely shared on



social media, warned that police were preparing for a major attack on the Underground this week.

The message read: "They think there's a terror threat and that it will happen on the tubes tomorrow around the west end area. So don't go travelling on tubes!! It's better to be safe than sorry. Please share."

It also falsely claimed that "every single police officer in the met has been called into work from 4am onwards".

A Metropolitan police spokesman confirmed the message was a "definite hoax", saying "these rumours are not uncommon. The only thing that gives them any credence is people re-tweeting them and circulating them."

Chief Superintendent Paul Brogden of the British Transport police tweeted: "Social media contains lots of rumours regarding threats to tube network tomorrow. There is no specific threat so keep calm & carry on."

David Cameron said the public could expect to see an increase in high-profile police patrols, including the greater use of armed officers, particularly at airports and major railway stations.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** I was always saying that "virtual terrorism" is equally effective to the real one! Practically you do not have to deliver a plot. Just well organize it and get arrested or leak it! Or tweet it! At least panic is guaranteed! Not to mention the countermeasures following that cost money and discomfort! **And a short question:** Did all Londoners know who Ch Supt Paul Brogden is??? And why should they believe him?

**Britain's beheaders – how we came to export jihad**

By Douglas Murray

Source: <http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/douglas-murray/2014/08/britains-beheaders-how-we-came-to-export-jihad/>



Illustration: Christian Adams

It is the now familiar nightmare image. A kneeling prisoner, and behind him a black-hooded man speaking to camera. The standing man denounces the West and claims that his form of Islam is under attack. He then saws off the head of the hostage. Why did Wednesday morning's video stand out? Because this time the captive was an American journalist —James Foley— and



his murderer is speaking in an unmistakable London accent.

The revulsion with which this latest Islamist atrocity has been greeted is of course understandable. But it is also surprising. This is no one-off, certainly no anomaly. Rather it is the continuation of an entirely foreseeable trend. Britain has long been a global hub of terror export, so much so that senior US government officials have suggested the **next attack on US soil is likely to come from UK citizens**. All countries — from Australia to Scandinavia — now have a problem with Islamic extremists. But the world could be forgiven for suspecting that Britain has become the weak link in the international fight against jihadism. And they would be right. This is not even the first beheading of an American journalist to have been arranged by a British man from London.

In 2002, 27-year-old Omar Sheikh was in Pakistan. A north London-born graduate of a private school and the London School of Economics, he had gone to fight in the Balkans and Kashmir in the 1990s. In 1994 he was arrested and jailed for his involvement in the kidnapping of three Britons and an American in India. Released in 1999 in exchange for the passengers and crew of the hijacked Air India flight IC-814, he was subsequently connected to the bombing of an American cultural centre in Calcutta in January 2002 and that same month organised the kidnapping and beheading of the Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

Back then it was possible to dismiss Omar Sheikh as a one-off — a macabre fluke. His alma mater shrugged off concerns about the number of London-based students who had got involved in Islamic extremism or the radical preachers touring the country. The shrug became a little harder to maintain — though maintained it was — the next year when two British men — Asif Hanif, 21, from Hounslow in west London and Omar Khan Sharif, 27 — carried out a suicide bombing in a bar on the waterfront in Tel Aviv. Omar Sharif had been a student of King's College London, just across the road from LSE. That time the glory of killing three Israelis and wounding over 50 was claimed by the terrorist group Hamas.

As the list of British-born jihadists grew, their activities also got closer to home. On 7 July 2005, British-born Muslims carried out the first suicide bombings on British soil, with four more

attempted a fortnight later. On Christmas Day 2009, the former head of the Islamic Society at University College London attempted to explode a bomb on a plane as it landed in Detroit. Last year, two converts decapitated Drummer Lee Rigby in broad daylight in south London. It is important to keep in mind that these are just the most high-profile cases. But the list of cases which were thwarted by good security work or sheer luck is astonishing. As well as the constant stream of convictions, at least one large-scale mass atrocity attempt on the lives of the British public was thwarted each year. As were smaller attempts. Everybody still remembers the killing of Lee Rigby, but how many people recall the case of Parviz Khan's Birmingham terrorist cell? Khan was convicted in 2008 for a plot the previous year to kidnap and behead a British Muslim soldier on video.

All the while, as the list of jihadists grew, so did the number of places where they could train. Perhaps as many as 4,000 people from Britain are thought to have gone to train or fight in Afghanistan. Estimates of the number of British citizens who have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq range from just over 500 to 1,500 (a figure from Khalid Mahmood, a Birmingham Labour MP). **If the larger figure is correct, it would be significantly higher than the number of Muslims currently serving in Britain's armed forces.** Some of these jihadists have returned; some have been killed fighting. But it is now obvious that whether we like it or not, this is Britain's problem.

Involvement in Syria spreads across Britain. As with other conflicts, a large proportion of the Brits going to fight in Syria appear to be — like the murderer of James Foley — from London. This is in line with other work, including a list of all terrorism convictions in the UK to date, which shows that almost half of Islamism-inspired terrorism offences and attacks on UK soil over the last decade were perpetrated by individuals living in London at the time of their arrest.

But involvement in the Syrian conflict has also spread to Birmingham and other places with large Muslim populations, as well as some places that will have surprised the wider public. In February of this year it transpired that the 41-year-old Abdul Waheed Majid from Crawley, West Sussex, had become a suicide bomber. On 6 February the non-Arabicspeaking



Brit carried out a truck-bombing against a jail in Aleppo, Syria.

In May, the Instagram account of a British man believed to be from London shows other jihadist war crimes from Syria, including the killing of a prisoner believed to be a loyalist of President Bashar al-Assad. One of the people shooting bullets into their captive is identified as a British man who in another video berates British Muslims for not providing enough support to the jihad. 'You know who you are,' he says, 'from the capital, the Midlands, up north, wherever you may be... it's a disgrace, that brothers know where these wives are, where these families are, and yet you are buying your nephew or your child a PlayStation 4 or taking them out to Nando's.'

The list goes on. A cell of young men from Cardiff. Others from Portsmouth. Earlier this month, Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary from west London appeared in a photo he himself posted on Twitter. He is pictured holding a severed head with the caption 'chillin' with my homie, or what's left of him'. This is all part of the strange juncture that Syria has become for British jihadis — a meld of street cool, Islamic extremism and ultra-violence. Even the register in which these men communicate on social media is familiar. For instance Madhi Hassan, 19, from Portsmouth, sent out a media image of himself holding a jar of Nutella, to reassure Brits coming over that they would not lack all comforts.

*Douglas Murray is Associate Director of the Henry Jackson Society and an author, most recently of Islamophilia.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Interesting article indeed! But what is the exact meaning of the first sentence of the last paragraph? Kind of British phlegm; humor or the Alzheimer's version of "*divide et impera*"?

### Al Qaeda's New Front: Jihadi Rap

By Amil Khan

Source: [http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/08/al-qaedas-new-front-jihadi-rap-110481.html?ml=m\\_pm#.VAWCiWOgQxB](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/08/al-qaedas-new-front-jihadi-rap-110481.html?ml=m_pm#.VAWCiWOgQxB)

Abdel Majed Abdel Bary, the rapper suspected of murdering American journalist James Foley somewhere between Syria and Iraq, is the product of a British youth culture that has managed to merge two seemingly contradictory lifestyles: gangsta rap and jihad. Like Douglas McAuthor McCain—an American hip-hop fan who was recently killed fighting for the Islamic State—Abdel Bary represents a new and very scary evolution in modern jihadi history.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel recently described the Islamic State as a threat "beyond anything we've ever seen." Yet we are only just beginning to grasp what is

Of course, one line of argument claims that if we just left all these places alone then none of this would come to us. But **we left the Balkans alone** and created one generation of jihadists. Then we didn't leave Afghanistan and Iraq alone — and created another generation of jihadists. Now we have very much left Syria alone — and lo and behold, we seem to have created another jihadist generation. Damned if you do, damned if you don't, apparently. Yet remarkably few people seem to realise that this isn't really about us.

Nevertheless, it comes ever closer to home. In recent weeks the black flag of jihad as used by Isis has been **flown openly in London** — supporters of Isis have appeared on Oxford Street — and elsewhere. Just this week, the imam of a leading Welsh mosque resigned after a pro-Isis guest preacher was invited to speak at his mosque.

This battle is going on in households and mosques up and down this country. We fear joining up these dots. And we fear giving offence more than we fear the international opprobrium that is coming our way.

**The country that brought liberty to much of the world is now exporting terrorism to large parts of it.**

Britain needs to look to itself, and address this problem, if there are not to be many more videos like this week's.



different about this group. One reason is that it includes men in its ranks whom you might expect to see in a nightclub rather than fighting in the desert for an organization that would, traditionally, whip you for listening to music.

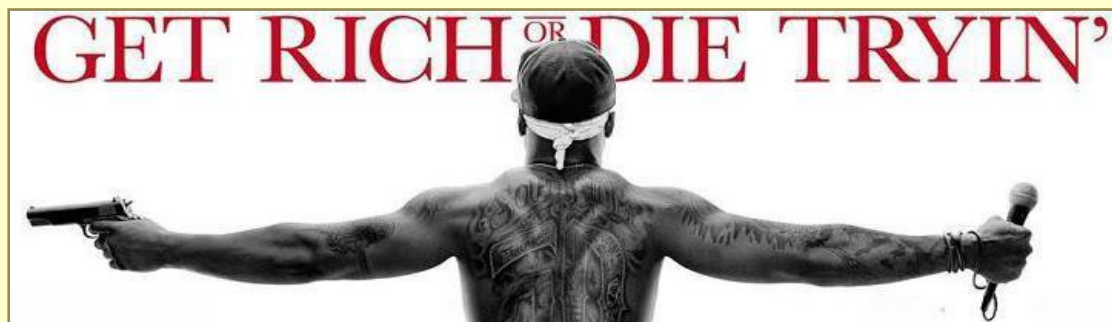
As a result of this cultural elasticity, the Islamic State has succeeded in attracting supporters outside its natural recruiting pool. Both McCain and another Westerner, Denis Mamadou Cuspert, a German citizen who died fighting with the Islamic State—and had a previous life as rapper Deso Dogg with three albums to his name—became converts as part of this broader appeal.

**I first began to look into this hybrid phenomenon in 2008 when I was a journalist researching a subculture that had fused the extremism and violence of gangsta rap with that of al Qaeda—or at least a version of it.** During a months-long investigation for British television station Channel 4, I met dozens of young men across London who tended to have three things in common: a history of criminal activity, an ambition to be a gangsta rapper and a fixation with the terrorist group begun by Osama bin Laden.

In a fried chicken shop in the south London district of Brixton—which saw mass riots against the police in the 1980s—I met with several young men who were walking examples of the powerful effect of al Qaeda’s ideology. **None came from Muslim backgrounds.** Aged between 16 and 20, they were members of a gang that identified itself around their local postal code, SW16. Their activities revolved around crime and self promotion. So, when they were not carrying out muggings, extortion rackets, or dealing drugs, they were targeting rivals perceived to be encroaching on their area for beatings and “tagging” — using graffiti to stamp the name of their gang on local landmarks. As a gang or “crew,” as they called themselves, they produced rap songs and videos about their exploits. By linking actions and communications— making their criminal exploits the focus of their rap songs — they were extremely effective in the way they projected their power to rivals and authorities. There are similarities with the way IS seamlessly integrates its media efforts and its military activities.

But what the gang was missing was a big vision beyond local turf wars. **A few weeks before I met them, they had decided to convert as a whole to “Islam,” which they were drawn to because they understood it to be the enemy of the “system,” as they also saw themselves to be.** Crucially, they were attracted to the idea that this “Islam” would allow them to continue carrying out street robberies, break-ins and extortion of other local gangs with the added benefit of association with a movement that was fighting Western forces on the world stage. The money their activities brought in was used to buy time in recording studios to further their ambitions to become rap artists.

**Their worldview was a mashup of what they called “thug life,” gleaned from the music of their U.S. gangsta-rap heroes along with selective borrowings from classic left wing and race-based conspiracy theories.** It promoted a do-anything approach to accumulating money and getting ahead, with a focus on violence and intimidation. **The title of rapper 50 Cent’s debut album “Get Rich, or Die Tryin’” was regarded as an article of faith.** Al Qaeda offered a bridge that allowed this intensely



local worldview to connect with the grand narratives of global war. They already saw themselves as soldiers in an endless urban conflict. Now, they could become warriors in an epic, global struggle. Bin Laden would have struggled to recognize their views as





Islamic, even accordingly to his own warped definition. But the twisted genius of his ideological creation was that they did not need his approval to sign up.

**On the face of it, it's difficult to imagine two lifestyles more diametrically opposed than rap and Islamism.** On one side is the “bling” culture of ostentatious consumption, alcohol, drugs and easy sex. On the other is an austere and unforgiving worldview that seeks to recreate seventh-century Arabia. What is frightening is that the Islamic State has been able to bridge these two very different worlds because of the ideology it inherited from al Qaeda, which uses it to attract young men motivated by a vague sense of injustice and anger at the West.



**In many ways, the world of hip hop runs parallel to and mirrors the place of Islam in many urban communities in the Western world.** Hip hop provides a cultural frame of reference that allows followers to

share social experiences they feel are not appreciated by wider society—whether that is poverty, racism, discrimination or dysfunction within their own community. It is, in some ways, the most significant social-protest music of our era. At the same time, followers develop and appropriate language, interactions and dress codes – whether traditional Pakistani tribal attire or low-riding jeans and urban East Coast America — that they feel are more in keeping with an expression of their identities. Both are often forces for good. But at the same time, both have extremes. **Hip hop and genuine Islam can help people find community and direction in a confusing world; in some ways hip hop is the modern descendent of the social protest music of the past. Gangsta rap and Islamist extremism, on the other hand, are both a dark reflection of their respective mainstream expressions.**



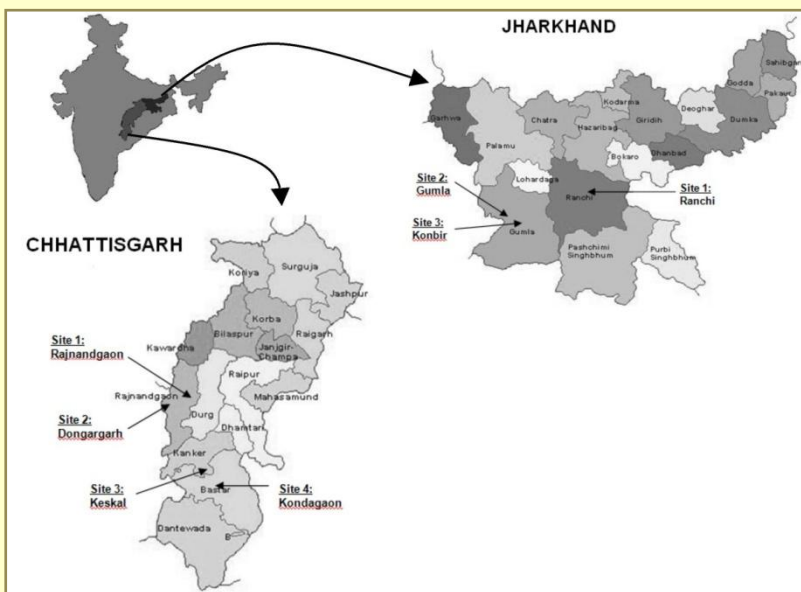
Hip  
**HIP HOP**

bandanas of  
“authentic”

*Amil Khan is a former journalist for Reuters and the BBC. He now works as a communications consultant.*

**Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh remain hubs of red terror**

Source: [http://articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/2014-08-26/news/53243913\\_1\\_security-forces-terror-group-red-terror](http://articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/2014-08-26/news/53243913_1_security-forces-terror-group-red-terror)

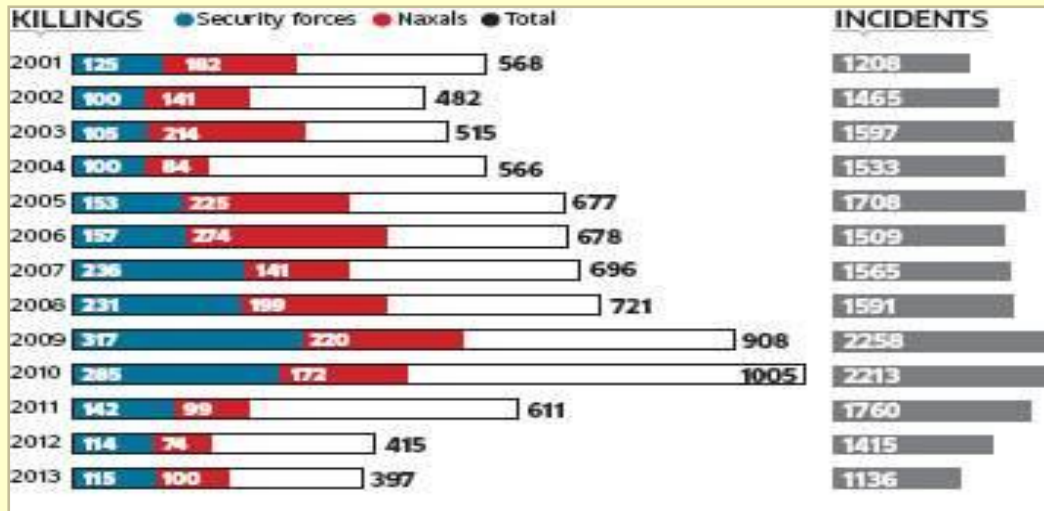


Intelligence agencies have warned of a possible increase in violent activities by CPI (Maoist), the banned Left-wing extremist outfit, in the coming days. Agencies say the terror group plans to intensify guerilla and mine warfare against security forces, recruit more cadres, develop second line of leadership, and use mass organisations to mobilise masses. The authorities are particularly

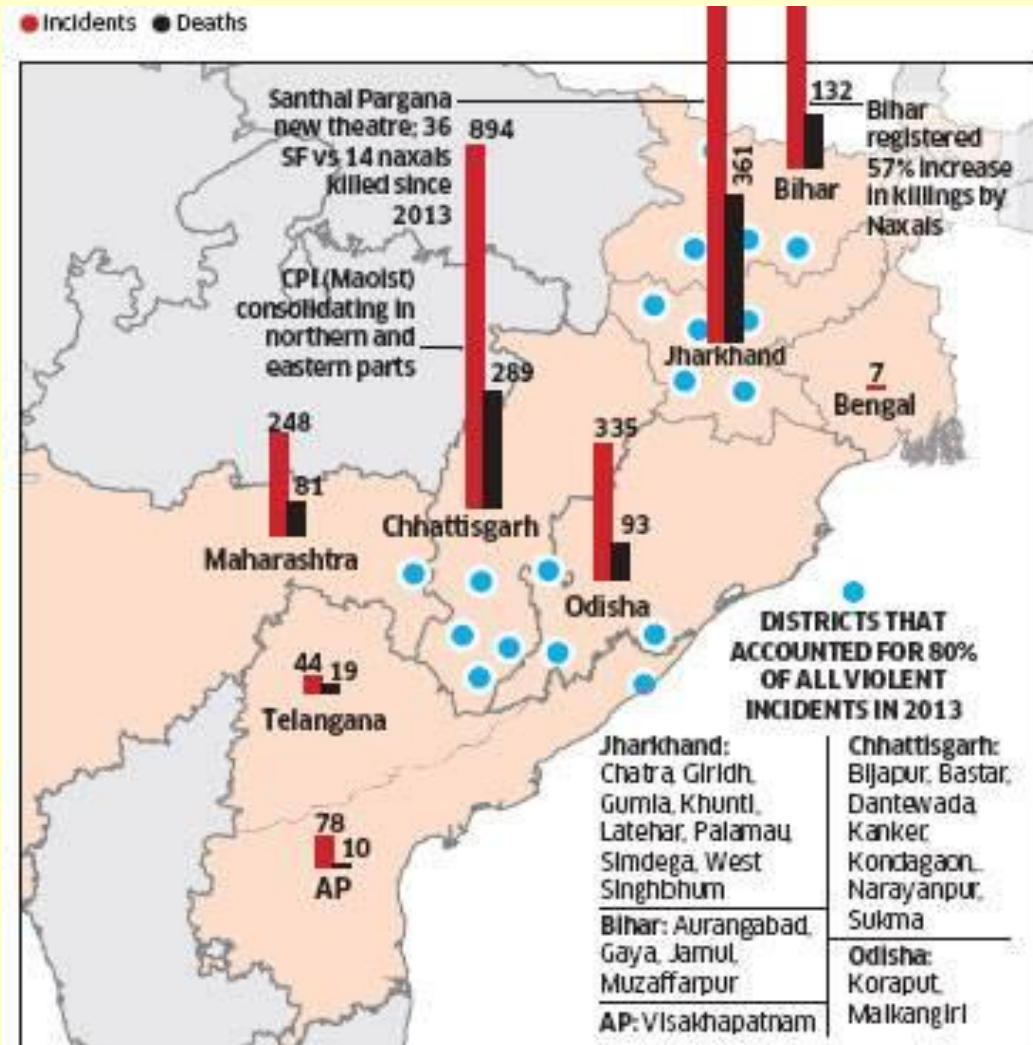
concerned about the inability of security forces to take on large armed groups, loss of weapons and administrative vacuum in large parts of the Red Corridor.



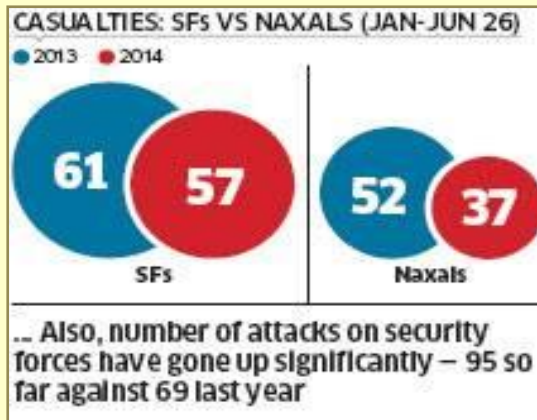
1. Violence Peaked In 2009 & 2010...



2. Improved results only in Maharashtra, Odisha, poor show in Bihar & Jharkhand



3. CPI (Maoist) Firepower



4. Though the number of incidents is coming down, forces are reporting more casualties...

**Military and Strategic Affairs**

Source: [http://d26e8pvoto2x3r.cloudfront.net/uploadImages/systemFiles/MASAApril2014Eng\\_3.pdf](http://d26e8pvoto2x3r.cloudfront.net/uploadImages/systemFiles/MASAApril2014Eng_3.pdf)

The purpose of *Military and Strategic Affairs* is to stimulate and enrich the public debate on military issues relating to Israel's national security. *Military and Strategic Affairs* is a refereed journal published three times a year within the framework of the Military and Strategic Affairs Program at the Institute for National Security Studies. Articles are written by INSS researchers and guest contributors. The views presented here are those of the authors alone. The Institute for National Security Studies is a public benefit company.



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**Officials increasingly worried about 3-D-printed gun technology**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140902-officials-increasingly-worried-about-3dprinted-gun-technology>

State and local government officials are debating how to address the growing accessibility of 3-D-printed gun technology.



The sixteen pieces of Defense Distributed's printed handgun, including spiral springs for its hammer mechanism and a nail used as its firing pin. (Credit: Michael Thad Carter for Forbes)

As *Government Technology* reports, recent actions by government agencies have

signaled that officials are concerned about the increasing



availability of printed guns. In December of last year, the U.S. Senate extended the



Undetectable Firearms Act for an additional ten years. Additionally, municipalities such as Philadelphia have also moved to ban 3-D-printed guns on local level.

The printer: [Stratasys Dimension SST](#)

Yet, despite these measures, the technology continues to proliferate. Blueprints for the Liberator, a 3-D gun created by a Texas designer and capable of firing .380 caliber bullets, are estimated to have been downloaded 100,000 times within two days. At the moment, designs like that one can be found throughout torrent and file sharing sites.



Even more startling is the fact that 3-D metal printers are also coming into development. The company Solid Concepts has used industrial printers to create a fully functioning Browning 1911 pistol — though the technology is far from public and commercial use.



The Liberator's barrel after firing

Others note, however, that while the technology is being circulated, the final products rarely compare to the real thing. "Our firearms technology people have looked at it," said Earl Woodham, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "and we have not yet seen a consistently reliable firearm made with 3-D printing."

The bigger danger, according to Hod Lipson, the director of Cornell University's Creative Machines Lab, is a lack of experience with weapons and construction as 3-D printing technology becomes more widespread.

"Weapons experts will tell you these guns are a joke and not that serious," he said. "But that's exactly the problem. Plastic guns are easy to fabricate, they can be used just a few times

and you can make guns that don't look like guns...the real danger is kids and teenagers and hobbyist who will attempt to make these."

## Emerging technologies in mass-casualty terrorism

By Jill Bellamy

Source: [http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter\\_opinion.php?id=9841](http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_opinion.php?id=9841)

Emerging technologies are those that are innovative and competitive in terms of both function and accessibility. One of the primary emerging technologies is 3-D printing and its application to weapon and weapon systems development. What sets 3-D printing apart from other emerging technologies is the lowering of a technical threshold that makes it user-friendly to a much wider population. In so doing, it lowers the technical and economic threshold of weapons production.

3-D printing has already been used in drone construction. The potential that either state-supported terrorist organizations (such as Hezbollah, a client of Iran) or those with vast financial resources, such as the Islamic State (ISIS), could acquire the means to mass-produce disposable weapons at a low cost is a significant counterterrorism concern.

Not only would 3-D printing of weapons increase the potential for mass casualty terrorism but standoff weapon systems could well increase this threat, replacing the need to even arm terrorists. 3-D printed disposable drones could deliver conventional and unconventional payloads. The ability to swiftly replace captured or destroyed drones would

significantly impact methods we currently use in counterterrorism and warfare.

In an article by Yochi Dreazen titled "The Next Israeli-Arab War will be Fought with Drones," Dreazen contends that "in October, near the West Bank city of Hebron, Palestinian security personnel arrested a team of operatives preparing to launch a drone packed with explosives. The events have set off alarms within the Israeli Defence Forces, which last April released a statement declaring unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to be a serious threat to the country. Hezbollah's drones represent the next evolution of warfare by remote control, when weaponized robotic planes give terrorist groups de facto air forces."

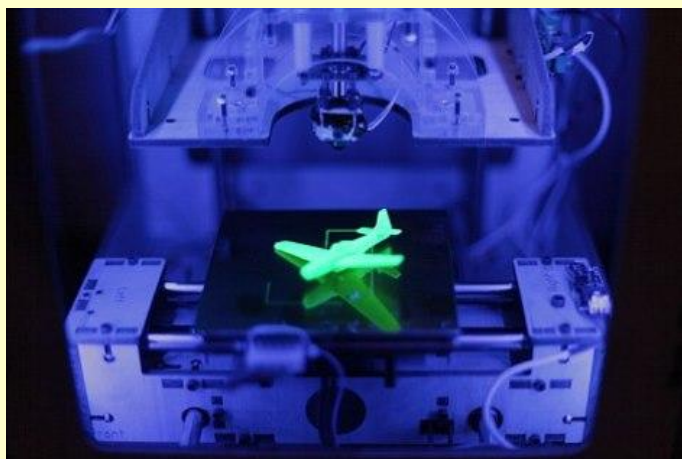
As if this were not concerning enough, the 3-D printing of drone technology will likely rapidly increase the ability of terrorist organizations, such as Hamas, Hezbollah and ISIS specifically, to deploy disposable drones, reprint them and rapidly replace lost drones. Moreover, suicide drones could easily be employed to take out infrastructures and used in mass-casualty attacks against civilians.

3-D mass production of



disposable drones would be a game changer for weapons of mass destruction and future terrorist methods and tactics, allowing incredible versatility. Smaller 3-D produced drones and those designed with swarming technology are likely to evade current countermeasures. In a scenario where mixed drones are used, some with conventional payloads, some with unconventional payloads, multiple strikes would be possible and while the conventional attack would be considered immediate, there could well be long-term casualties either from loading the payloads with low level radiological material (small aerial dirty bombs) or biological and chemical weaponized agents. Such agents could well create multiple rolling outbreaks of pandemic disease or be used as stealthy force reducers/multipliers.

**4-D technology, developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, could mean that printed payloads using biological agents could be weaponized**



**based on target-specific data. This would obscure identification and remove some of the barriers that previously served to make this type of weaponization process the domain of state military labs, essentially making it user friendly to terrorists.**

While Israel is the best placed nation, both technically and in terms of experience, in countering potential future terrorist weapons, the use of 3-D printed technology in a European scenario would offer ISIS real advantages. **With the possible exception of France, most European governments are not quite as well prepared to counter this threat, nor do they believe it is remotely on the horizon.** This gap in assessment and

experience advantages ISIS and other terrorists -- even lone terrorists who might access 3-D printing technology within Europe.

To understand how real and how close this technology is and is accessibility to terrorists, we need only look at a recent article by Adam Clark Estes wherein he notes: "A team from the Advanced Manufacturing Research Center at the University of Sheffield, **built their disposable drone**, a five foot wide guy made of just nine parts that looks like a tiny stealth bomber, using a technique called fused deposition modeling. This additive manufacturing technique has been around since the 1980s but has recently become faster and cheaper thanks to improved design processes. The ultimate vision, as UAS describes it, is for 'cheap and potentially disposable UAVs that could be built and deployed in remote situations potentially within as little as 24 hours. Forward operating teams equipped with 3-D printers could thus generate their own semi-autonomous micro air force squadrons or airborne surveillance swarms, a kind of first strike desktop printing team hurling disposable drones into the sky."

**Hezbollah and Hamas both have sophisticated intelligence collection capabilities. What we will likely see with 3-D printable drones is the ability to drop disposable surveillance equipment into theaters where previously they would not have access.** If the surveillance

equipment can be mass produced and cost effective, we are likely to see its use by terrorist organizations. A risk assessment of this emerging technology and terrorist applications could not be undertaken too soon.

As breathtaking as this seems, it is now reality and one few European governments are planning effectively to counter. Unfortunately, there is a technological gap between disposable 3-D printed drones and counter technologies to identify, evade and destroy them. This is an advantage our enemies are likely to exploit and in the very near term, not two or five years down the road.

*Dr. Jill Bellamy is an international expert and former consultant to NATO on biological warfare and threat reduction.*



**Better security for Europe's mass transportation**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140902-better-security-for-europe-s-mass-transportation>



When a suspicious individual flees on a bus or by train, things usually get tough for the police. This is because the security systems of the various transportation companies and security services are typically incompatible. **The EU project, Secur-ED (Secure Urban Mass Transportation – European Demonstrator), aims to correct this by establishing better collaboration among transportation companies within the same city.**

The train is leaving in a few minutes. The teeming crowd at the train station finds it anything but easy to get to the right platform quickly. It is confusing and the overcrowded train platforms further aggravate the travelers. Even security experts, train employees, police, and firefighters work up a sweat. For example: when they are pursuing a wanted person, or if a suspect leaves an unmonitored suitcase behind. The train stations use IT systems that are intended to protect their customers from hazards. There are problems, though: frequently, only one train station or an individual mass transit operator is in danger. Since the use of this IT is not coordinated on a centralized basis, the systems within a city are frequently incompatible with each other. This makes it difficult to exchange information in critical situations and to respond in tandem.

**Technologies that “understand” each other**

A Fraunhofer release reports that the Secur-ED Project aims to examine how organizational and information technology-based collaboration within major European cities can be improved, and doing so when facing a variety of threats and differing parameters. With thirty-nine partners and a budget of €40.2 million, Secur-

ED is one of the largest demonstration projects in European security research.

“Since most major cities already have numerous sensors — like video cameras — and control centers for security in local transit, we initially analyzed where the duties lay for those participating partners as well as for the existing IT systems,” says Dr. Wolf Engelbach, project director at IAO.

“For this purpose, we have developed an interoperability concept: It describes the best possible ways for participants to share their information during crisis situations. Building on that foundation, concrete formats that regulate the exchange can be developed and implemented.”

To enable security agencies to more effectively share their information and discuss their approaches, the researchers also built a multi-touch table: After extraordinary events, the participants can select data, provide it to the partners, and jointly assess the situation.

**Test runs in Berlin, Madrid, Milan, and Paris**

Together with their partners, the researchers connected the new solutions from Secur-ED to integrated solutions — coordinating for the train stations and railroad networks in Berlin, Madrid, Milan, and Paris — and tried them out there in test runs. For instance, an “unauthorized party” slipped into a railroad storage depot in Milan, which the staff at the “control center” was able to detect with the aid of a heat-sensitive camera and a camera with a zoom-lens. In another scenario, a bus driver felt one passenger was “suspicious” and reported this to Central. Although the passenger



got out at the train station, the employee at the control center kept an eye on him — thanks to a new software product. All they had to do was mark the suspicious individual on the camera image. The software then automatically calculated where the suspect might have moved and of the total 300 cameras, recommended to the employee those cameras that last tracked that individual.

When conducting a manhunt for specific individuals, the police will soon be able to count on the project's findings, as well: For example, the researchers in Madrid transmitted an image of the individual being sought via LTE — the cellular network — to the city's busses. Cameras in the busses compared the faces of boarding passengers with that of the target individual.

If the face was a match, the system dispatched an automatic message to the bus driver and the control center.

Despite the sheer number of these exercises, the project partners were unable to run through all the developments in all their variations. Therefore, the researchers at IAO also developed recommendations as to how various scenarios could subsequently be adapted. These include agent-based simulations and calculations for gas dispersion in order to plan evacuations as well as to place cameras and sensors.

The closing conference of Secur-ED takes place on 17 September in Brussels.

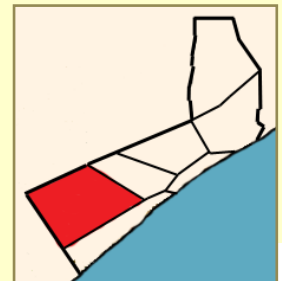
In addition, the project will be presented at Future Security 2014, the security research conference in Berlin, from 16 to 18 September.

### U.S. strike kills al-Shabab's spiritual leader

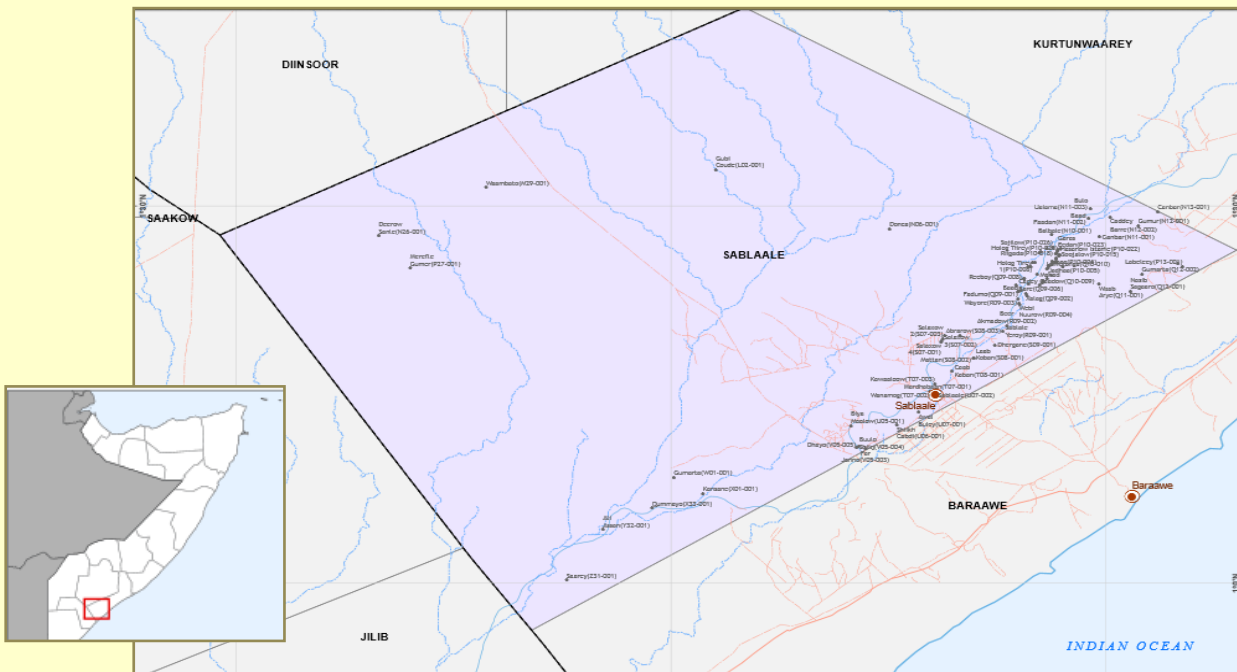
Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140902-u-s-strike-kills-alshabab-s-spiritual-leader>

September 02 – The U.S. military has attacked the Islamic al-Shabab network in Somalia yesterday (Monday). The Pentagon said the operation targeted the group's fugitive leader. Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon spokesman, said the United States was now

left a meeting of the group's top leaders. Godane, also known as Mukhtar Abu Zubeyr, is the group's spiritual leader who forged an alliance between Somali militants and al-Qaeda.



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assessing the results of the operation and would provide more information later.

A senior Somali intelligence official told the Guardian that a U.S. drone targeted al-Shabab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane as he

The Somali official said intelligence indicated Godane "might have been killed along with other militants."





The official said the attack took place in a forest near **Sablale district** (see map), 105 miles south of Mogadishu, where al-Shabaab trains its fighters.

The governor of Somalia's Lower Shabelle region, Abdiqadir Mohamed Nor, told the AP that as government and African Union forces were heading to a town in Sablale district they heard what sounded like an earthquake as drones struck al-Shabab bases.

"There was an air strike near Sablale. We saw something," Nor said.

The *New York Times* reports that the United States has carried out several air strikes in Somalia

recent years, targeting senior al-Shabab leaders. A U.S. missile strike in January killed a high-ranking intelligence officer for al-Shabab, and last October a vehicle carrying senior members of the group was hit in a strike that killed al-Shabab's top explosives expert.

The latest United States acted yesterday after Somalia's government forces regained control of Mogadishu's Godka Jilacow prison, a high-security prison in the capital. The prison was attacked earlier on Sunday by heavily armed

Islamic militants in an effort to free al-Shabab members held there.

Somali officials said all seven attackers, three government soldiers and two civilians were Sunday's attack on the prison started when a suicide car bomber detonated a truck filled with explosives at the gate of the prison, followed by gunmen who fought their way into the prison.

Al-Shabab militants were behind last September attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, which killed sixty-seven people. Godane said at the time that the attack, and other al-Shabab attacks inside Kenya, were in retaliation for the Kenya's military incursions into Somalia to fight al-Shabab.

In 2011, the 22,000-strong African Union military force has evicted al-Shabab from most of Somalia's towns, and the group is now active e mostly in the country's rural areas.

The Somali military last week launched a broad military operation to oust al-Shabab from its last remaining bases in the southern parts of Somalia.

About 100 U.S. Navy SEALs and other Special Operation forces have been operating in different parts of Somalia for more than a year now.

➤ **Read more at p.100** (Pentagon's verification)



**Overlooked and underrated: women in right-wing extremist groups in Germany**

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2014/09/overlooked-and-underrated-women-in.html>

**During the last 25 years, there has been a marked increase both in the number of active right-wing women as well as a growth in the number of women's groups in the right-wing extremist scene in Germany.**

The possible roles and positions which can be assumed by women have also expanded: from activists, street fighters and gang leaders to local government politicians, demonstration coordinators and internet activists.

Many right-wing families settle in the rural areas of eastern and western Germany, with ultra-nationalist families often concentrated in specific regions. "Right-wing women seek to influence the social environment of these areas by assuming roles in local government or simply by becoming 'friendly neighbours'", explains Esther Lehnert from the Expert Center on Gender and Right-Wing Extremism of the Amadeu Antonio Foundation from Germany.

Individuals often cannot be identified right away as neo-Nazis.

In recent years, the number of young women from the National Democratic Party (NPD, the most important German right-wing political party) choosing careers in the health, education and social sectors has increased. Similarly ultra-right-wing mothers have been getting more involved in parents' organisations at schools and kindergartens. **This development is not by chance.** Even in 1998, Udo Voigt, then head of the NPD, advocated a specific focus on these social themes. Much later, in 2006, NPD party members were encouraged to get even more involved in German daily life: for instance in local initiatives, sports



clubs and the voluntary fire service. Following the NPD's Women's Congress of 1996, its female members redoubled their engagement in kindergartens, schools, youth centres, sports clubs as well as nursing homes.

**The aim of these women is to gain trust, forge relationships and networks, as well as to establish a sense of normality around the right-wing scene.** When staff at educational and social institutions are confronted with the identity of extreme right-wing women, they are usually taken by surprise. Often right-wing women work with them for a long time before their political identities are exposed. When this occurs, the institutions naturally find themselves under pressure to react quickly and there is not always a consensus within the staff team about how such situations should be handled. "Under such circumstances it is essential that professional support is sought straight away", Lehnert advises.

The Expert Center on Gender and Right-Wing Extremism has been working on the topic of right-wing women for several years and has advised many institutions on how to proceed in such cases. **In March 2014, it published a brochure called *Overlooked and Underrated: Women in Right-Wing Extremist Groups in Germany*, which focuses on the serious misrepresentation of women in right-wing extremist groups.** The brochure shows that there is a very low level of awareness concerning the racist, anti-Semitic and right-wing extremist attitudes of girls and women in German civil society, within the social work and public education sectors, in the media, as well as within local government.

Women were, of course, actively involved as perpetrators in the twentieth century German National Socialist movement, holding a variety of positions and functions. And even after the end of World War II, women assumed positions in right-wing extremist organisations and political parties in West Germany. Some were ideological masterminds and propagandists working in leadership positions. Some also participated as members of militant (and even terrorist) groups. The general public is often not aware of this at all.

By way of example, one of the two case studies included in the report takes a closer look at the rise and fall of the now infamous right-wing terrorist **Beate Zschäpe**. Although her racist, even violent activities, were known to the social services and police departments,

she was always viewed as little more than a side-kick and therefore not the focus of serious



investigation.

The consequences of underestimating the role of women in right-wing organisations are clear and, in the case of the victims of the National Socialist Underground (NSU) murders, severe. **The Expert Center on Gender and Right-Wing Extremism therefore recommends that the topic of right-wing women be included in the professional training of police officers, journalists, educators and social workers.** It has successfully trained many professionals and continues to offer these professional trainings.

Moreover schools, kindergartens, sports associations and other organizations should develop and implement a so-called "democratic principle". This is an assertion of democratic values and should include procedures for how the organization will recognise right-wing ideology and how it will respond to it.

**Another problem is that the level of hostility targeted at women in general, and mothers in particular, who wish to leave right-wing extremist groups is underrated.** This is an area of concern for which urgent steps need to be taken. In Germany there are various privately- as well as state-funded programmes for former right-wing activists who wish to exit the scene. To date, none of these programmes have focused specifically on the needs of women, even though these situations require gender-specific approaches, for example when mothers with children try to leave the scene. Professionals in various fields, for instance divorce courts and social welfare offices, lack awareness of their needs and are simply not trained to deal with these scenarios. Therefore, the conceptualisation and implementation of exit programmes for neo-Nazis need to be gender-specific and gender-sensitive. State-funded programmes should always include gender-mainstreaming strategies.



There is an urgent need for a gender-sensitive approach in all strategies and actions to prevent and counter right-wing extremism, because otherwise, they are bound to fail.

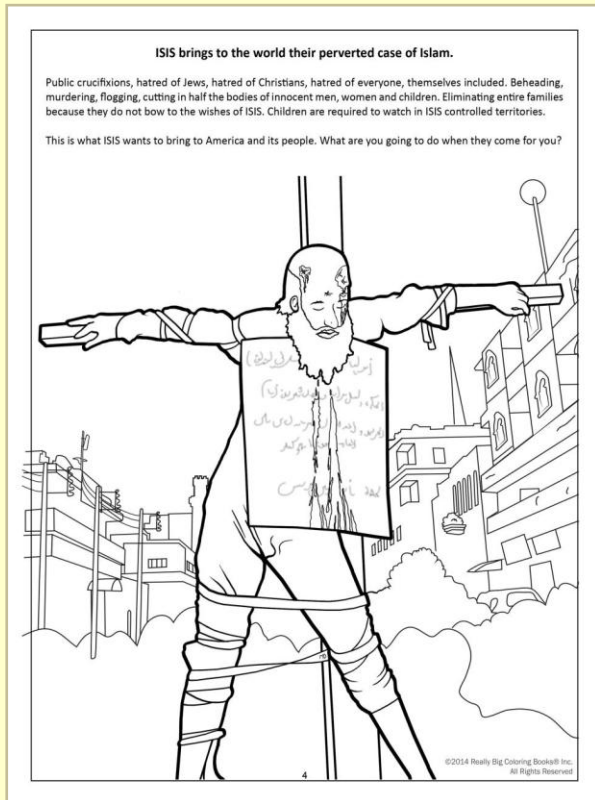
Institutions and organisations must develop policies to deal with right-wing extremism at a strategic level instead of merely responding to individual cases as if they were "one-offs".

**Anti-terrorism coloring books feature graphic crucifixion, grim warnings: 'What are you going to do when they come for you?'**

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/graphic-anti-terrorism-coloring-books-teach-kids-isis-article-1.1924502>



**Color these terrorists bad.**



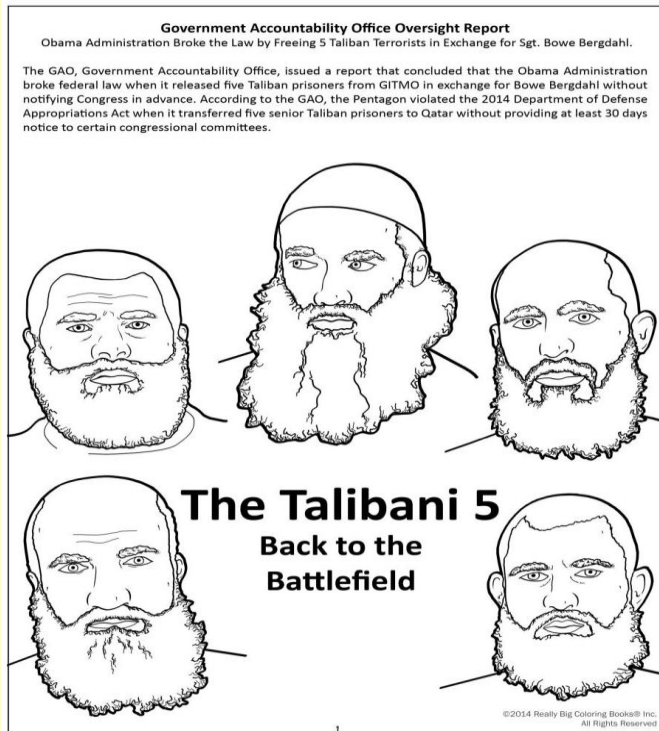
A St. Louis-based coloring book company updated its controversial terrorism-themed books to include lessons about the Islamic State.

Really Big Coloring Books' reissued series hit the Internet last week. The rereleased books feature supplemental pages that detail the Islamic State, the terrorists released in exchange for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl and the Boston Marathon bombings.

"These books tell the truth," Really Big Coloring Books founder Wayne Bell said in a video announcing the reissue. "We're trying to educate the country on these animals, these brutal people, these terrible humans on the planet called ISIS."

One especially graphic page shows a crucified Christian with the explanation, "This is what ISIS wants to bring to America and its people. What are you going to do when they come for you?"





One page shows a crucified Christian. Another page reads 'Obama administration broke the law by freeing 5 Taliban terrorists.'

The company — which also prints more innocent coloring books about superheroes, fairy tales and farm animals — released its first terrorism coloring book, "We Shall Never Forget 9/11: The Kids' Book of Freedom," in 2011.

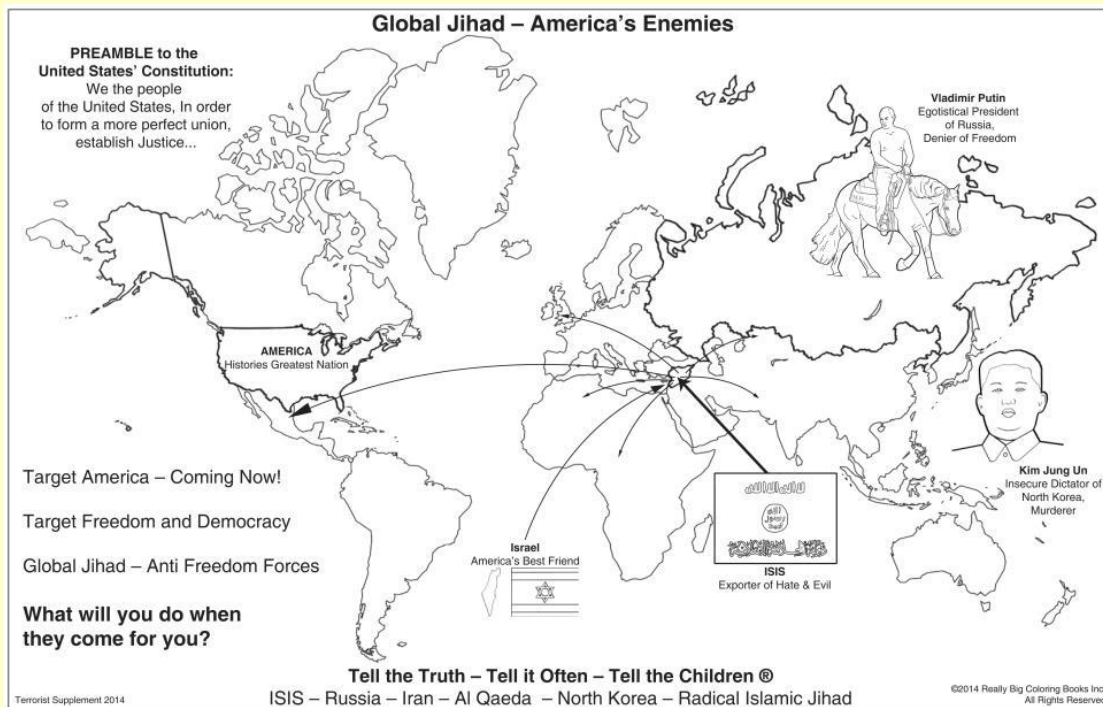
"The True Faces of Evil — Terror" followed in 2012 and included terrorist trading cards

Both the 2011 and 2012 books now come with "The Terror Update on Global Jihad" supplement.

Bell explained that the update was necessary in light of recent ISIS activity and other terrorism incidents.

Really Big Coloring Books The rerelease was necessary in light of recent ISIS activity and other terrorism

incidents, the book's publisher said.



"In an effort to explain and educate today's youth about this hardcore cultural subject, the terrorist must be discussed with open dialogue both inside the Islamic community, and in the global community as a whole," he said in a statement.

The reissue explains how the U.S. government released five Taliban terrorists in exchange for the freedom of American captive Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. Kids can color in "The Taliban Five" who are going "back to the battlefield."

"Obama administration broke the law by freeing 5 Taliban terrorists," the page explains.

The supplement also includes a spoof on the Rolling Stone cover that featured Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.



coloringbook.com The rerelease features 'The Terror Update on Global Jihad,' which explains that ISIS is killing Christians overseas.

Being the elusive character that he was, and after hiding out with his terrorist buddies in Pakistan and Afghanistan, American soldiers finally locate the terrorist leader Osama Bin Laden. Many people had helped secure his safety for nearly 10 years.

Dubbed code name Neptune Spear, the operation lasted 38 minutes, included were 23 Navy Seals and a dog named "Cairo," no one wanted detainees. Once the American military confirmed and identified Bin Laden, President Barack H. Obama had previously issued a kill order to Seal Team Six to shoot him. In Bin Laden's house in Afghanistan, Osama used his wives and children as shields as he tried to escape and get away from the American Military. But the coward Bin Laden could not escape. He was killed hiding behind the dress tail of a young woman. On May 1, 2011, Bin Laden was shot dead, and the American Military wrapped him in a white blanket and buried him at sea by throwing his body overboard. Throwing his body into the sea showed him more respect than he showed to the people who died on 9/11.

Children, the truth is, these terrorist acts were done by freedom-hating radical Islamic Muslim extremists. These crazy people hate the American way of life because we are FREE and our society is FREE. We must be prepared to know and understand the truth. America is FREE. Ask your mother and father, your teacher, your preacher what this really means. What does it mean to be FREE? Why are we a FREE people?

We are free to think, free to be honest, free to write, free to live as we wish. We are America. America does not hate other people in the world, but we love the world in which we live and will defend our way of life. On the remaining pages of this book we talk about some of our freedoms and our way of life.



"Not the face of a rock star!" the fake cover reads. "How a popular promising student showed his true colors, a monster that should be paraded through the streets!"

Since their initial release, the books have gotten mixed feedback, Bell said.

"Recently we even got a letter from the White House telling us that they were not very happy that we're teaching children the word terror," he said in the video.

Still, there's a demand for them.

The updates come with the company's 2011 book, 'We Shall Never Forget 9/11: The Kids' Book of Freedom,' and it's 2012 one, 'The True Faces of Evil — Terror,' which comes with terrorist trading cards.

"We make these books because parents ask for them. If they didn't want them, they would not buy them," he said.

Really Big Coloring Books has sent copies of its terrorism series to all 50 states'

Departments of Education and the U.S. government asking the books be part of schools' curricula. It's unclear how many — if any — have taken the company up on that suggestion.

While intended to teach children about terrorism, the books require parental guidance, Bell said.

"These books are not for the backpacks of kindergarten children. They are made for children, but with adult supervision," he told the Daily Beast.

The terrorism books are not the company's only topical children's toys.

Last year, the company released a book featuring Sen. Ted Cruz. Another book detailed President Barack Obama's 2008 inauguration. The Tea Party, the Libertarian Party and the U.S. Constitution have also been celebrated on Really Big Coloring Books pages.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Everything for the profit? Most probably new additions with beheadings will be added soon... Poor innocent sensitive childrens' souls in a world of stupid adults... C' est la vie!?





## Missing Libyan Jetliners Raise Fears of Suicide Airliner Attacks on 9/11

Source: <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/missing-libyan-jetliners-raise-fears-of-suicide-airliner-attacks-on-911/>

September 02 – **Islamist militias in Libya took control of nearly a dozen commercial jetliners last month, and western intelligence agencies recently issued a warning that the jets could be used in terrorist attacks across North Africa.**

Intelligence reports of the stolen jetliners were distributed within the U.S. government over the past two weeks and included a warning that one or more of the aircraft could be used in an attack later this month on the date marking the anniversary of the Sept.

11, 2001, terrorist attacks against

New York and Washington, said U.S. officials familiar with the reports.

“There are a number of commercial airliners in Libya that are missing,” said one official. “We found out on September 11 what can happen with hijacked planes.”

The official said the aircraft are a serious counterterrorism concern because reports of terrorist control over the Libyan airliners come three weeks before the 13th anniversary of 9/11 attacks and the second anniversary of the Libyan terrorist attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi.

Four Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens, were killed in the Benghazi attack, which the Obama administration initially said was the result of a spontaneous demonstration against an anti-Muslim video.

A senior State Department counterterrorism official declined to comment on reports of the stolen jetliners.

A second State department official sought to downplay the reports. “We can’t confirm that,” he said.

Meanwhile, officials said Egyptian military forces appear to be preparing to intervene in

Libya to prevent the country from becoming a failed state run by terrorists, many with ties to al Qaeda.

Libya remains an oil-rich state and if the country is taken over completely by Islamist extremists, U.S. counterterrorism officials believe it will become another terrorist safe haven in the region.

The officials said U.S. intelligence agencies have not confirmed the aircraft theft following the takeover of Tripoli International Airport in late August, and are attempting to locate all aircraft owned by two Libyan state-owned airline companies, as security in the country continued to deteriorate amid fighting between Islamists and anti-Islamist militias.

Video surfaced on Sunday showing armed fighters from the Islamist militia group Libyan Dawn partying inside a captured U.S. diplomatic compound in Tripoli. The footage showed one fighter diving into a pool from a second-story balcony at the facility.

Tripoli airport and at least seven aircraft were reported damaged during fighting that began in July. Photos of the airport in the aftermath showed a number of damaged aircraft. The airport has been closed since mid-July.

**The state-owned Libyan Airlines fleet until this summer included 14 passenger and cargo jetliners, including seven Airbus 320s, one Airbus 330, two French ATR-42 turboprop aircraft, and four Bombardier CJR-900s. Libyan state-owned Afriqiyah Airways fleet is made up of 13 aircraft, including three Airbus 319s, seven Airbus 320s, two Airbus 330s, and one Airbus 340.**

The aircraft were reportedly taken in late August following the takeover of Tripoli International Airport, located about 20 miles south of the capital, by Libyan Dawn.

Al Jazeera television reported in late August that western intelligence reports had warned of terror threats to the region from 11 stolen commercial jets.

In response, Tunisia stopped flights from other Libyan airports at Tripoli, Sirte, and Misrata over concerns that jets from those airports could be on suicide missions.



Egypt's government also halted flights to and from Libya.

Military forces in North Africa, including those from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt have been placed on heightened alert as a result of intelligence warning of the stolen aircraft.

Egyptian military jets reportedly have conducted strikes inside Libya against Libyan Dawn positions recently, and U.S. officials said there are signs a larger Egyptian military incursion is being planned.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fatah al-Sisi was quoted as denying Egyptian air strikes into Libya have taken place but suggested that military action is being considered.

Secretary of State John Kerry last week told his Egyptian counterpart that the United States would speed up the delivery of Apache attack helicopters, although it is not clear the Apaches would be used in any Libyan operations.

Egypt's military-backed government appears to be seeking a more significant role in regional security after the Obama administration helped engineer the ouster of Libyan strongman Moammar Qaddafi in 2011. Since then, the Obama administration, through its announced policy of "leading from behind," has stood by while Libya gradually has spiraled into chaos.

The Libyan government announced Sunday that it no longer controlled the capital of Tripoli. "We announce that the majority of the ministries, institutions, and associations in the capital Tripoli are no longer under its control," a government statement said.

Libya's parliament in August declared both Ansar al Sharia and Libyan Dawn as terrorist organizations working to overthrow the government.

**Ansar al Sharia, which is based in Benghazi, recently publicized on social media that it has obtained large numbers of more sophisticated weapons, including SA-6 surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft guns, rocket-propelled grenades, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, assault rifles, and armored vehicles.** The group is closely aligned with al Qaeda-linked rebels in Syria.

Abderrahmane Mekkaoui, a Moroccan military expert, told Al Jazeera television, which first reported the airline theft Aug. 21, the alert regarding the stolen jetliners was preventive and covers the region from Cairo to Lagos Nigeria.

Mekkaoui said the jets are being held by the Libyan group called Masked Men Brigade, which was designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the State Department in December.

The Masked Men Brigade is linked to al Qaeda and Ansar al Sharia—the group behind the Benghazi terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2012.

Until the Libya Dawn takeover of the airport, announced Aug. 24, two other militia groups, known as Al Qaqa and Al Sawa controlled the airport and all aircraft belonging to Libyan Airlines and Afriqiyah Airways.

Mekkaoui said "credible intelligence" reports given to states in the region indicated the Masked Men Brigade "is plotting to use the planes in attacks on a Maghreb state" on the 9/11 anniversary.

Counterterrorism expert Sebastian Gorka said that if the theft is confirmed, the stolen aircraft could be used in at least two ways.

"The first would be how commercial airliners were used on Sept. 11, 2001, literally turning an innocent mode of mass transit into a super-high precision guided missile of immense potency," said Gorka, who holds the Maj. Gen. Charles Horner chair at Marine Corps University in Quantico, Va.

"The second tactic could be to use the airframe with its civilian markings as a tool of deception to insert a full payload of armed terrorists into a locale that otherwise is always open to commercial carriers," he said.

Michael Rubin, a counterterrorism specialist with the American Enterprise Institute, said commercial jetliners in the hands of terrorists could be formidable weapons.

"Who needs ballistic missiles when you have passenger planes? Even empty, but loaded up with fuel they can be as devastating," Rubin said.

**"Each plane could, if deployed by terrorists to maximum devastating effect, represent 1,000 civilian casualties."**

**Among the potential targets are urban areas and economic targets, like Saudi Arabia's oil fields.**

"Anyone who has ever flown over Saudi Arabia at night can see refineries like Yanbu lit up like Christmas trees against the blackness of the desert," Rubin said. "One Saudi security officer once told me that they would only have about 90 seconds to shoot down a hijacked plane from the time it left





international airspace to impact in one of the region's most important refineries."

Rubin said in 2003 a Boeing 727 went missing in Africa fueling concerns about a terror attack on the U.S. consulate in Karachi.

"What is striking is that more than a decade later, the United States hasn't taken the need to safeguard what are effectively giant guided missiles seriously," he said.

A former Libyan general, Khalifa Haftar, has been leading anti-Islamist forces. His group

has access to Libyan air force MiG jets that have conducted strikes on Libyan Dawn positions in recent days. Haftar also has conducted military raids in Benghazi.

**The United Nations Security Council on Aug. 27 announced plans for new sanctions on Libyan militias and terrorists. In a resolution the U.N. warned of the "growing presence of al Qaeda-linked terrorist groups and individuals operating in Libya."**

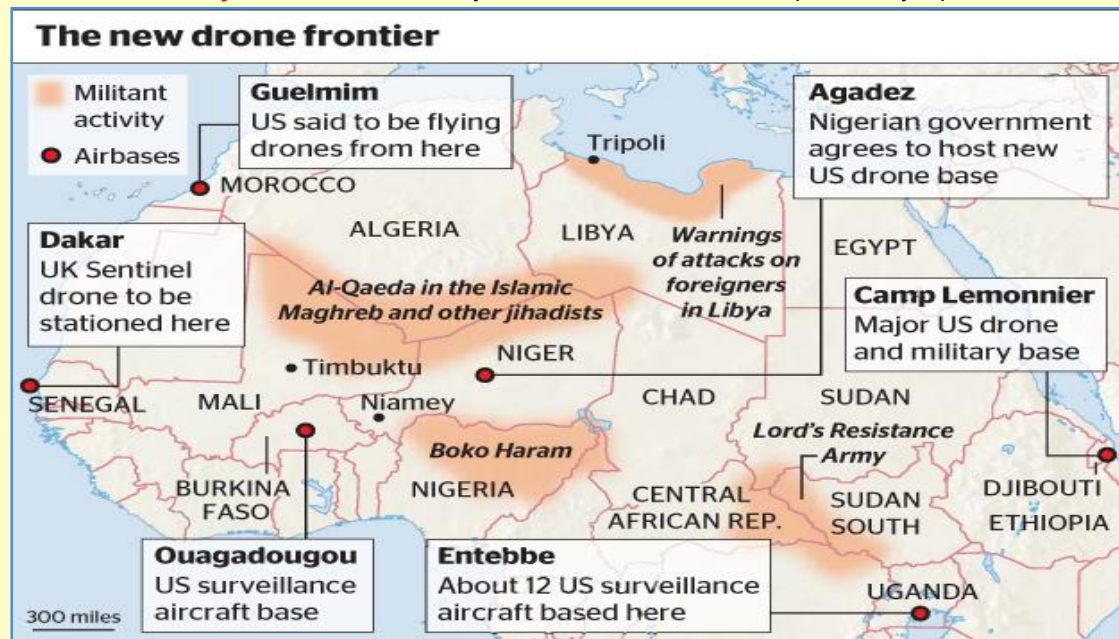
**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Interesting but yet to decide either to laugh or worry about it! As an analyst I always take seriously all the scenarios especially those based on terrorist mindset. But if expressed worries and alarms are for real then another problem arose: how on earth these airplanes will approach their targets out of nowhere? Without "renegade" interception and alike? Recently IS threatened Russian vessels to be attacked by captured Syrian warplanes with suicide jihadists as pilots! As if they are going to take off from ground! On the other hand this scenario is applicable at regional level but who wants to destroy critical infrastructure of a Muslim country? Then what about a suicide Boeing against a warship in the Mediterranean Sea? Better chances but similar obstacles although some very highly advertised defense systems on deck are not that great as they are presented... When comes to MANPADS then YES! – this is a real threat if sneaked in a European country and used during landing or take off of a commercial airliner. Based on the above I think that we must keep laughter hidden (for the time being) and prepare for the unexpected with the same zealus as usual! In the meantime it would be a good idea to surgically destroy certain runways here and there – just in case MH370 re-appears on radars' screens! (of course highways might be an alternative...)

**U.S. opens a second drone base in Niger**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140903-u-s-opens-a-second-drone-base-in-niger>

September 03 – **The Pentagon has reached an agreement with the government of Niger to open a second U.S. drone base in the landlocked country.** The base, in the city of

Agadez, will help the U.S. Air Force track Islamist militants who have gained control of remote parts of North and West Africa. U.S. and French troops already operate out of a



military base in Niamey, Niger’s capital, where drones are set to conduct reconnaissance flights throughout the region.

The *Washington Post* reports that the agreement signals a closer relationship between the U.S. military and France in northern Africa after years of quarrels. In 2008, France reduced its military presence in Africa and instead opened a base in the Persian Gulf, where the U.S. military had dominated for decades. Simultaneously, the Pentagon created Africom, its Africa Command, and expanded relationships with former-French African colonies.

Now both France and the United States have formed a united front against Islamists fighters in the region. In July, French president François Hollande announced operation Barkhane, in which France would permanently deploy 3,000 troops to bases in Mali, Chad, Niger, and Burkina Faso. This deployment allows the U.S. Air Force to focus on drone and

other airborne missions, while French forces tackle ground missions.

On 11 August, the Obama administration approved \$10 million in emergency aid to help airlift French troops and provide midair refueling for French aircraft deployed to West Africa, signaling the U.S. support of operation Barkhane. “They have a similar strategy and aim about what they are doing,” said Sarah Covington, a sub-Saharan Africa analyst at IHS Country Risk. “The French have been in that region for decades now and have an extremely strong presence.”

From the **Agadez base**, U.S. drones will better monitor a desert corridor connecting northern Mali with southern Libya, a key route for arms traffickers, drug smugglers, and Islamist fighters. Agadez is “an attractive option” for a base, “given its proximity to the threats in the region,” said Benjamin A. Benson, a spokesman for Africom.



**EDITOR’S COMMENT:** All these air capabilities are good and potentially beneficial but in Greek Army we have a saying: “it does not matter who has air superiority. What really counts are the boots on the ground!” Drones mentioned will kill some leaders or destroy some convoys but both will be instantly replaced and show will continue until the next strike. It is a war out there! NOT a video game!

**ISIS beheads second American hostage**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140903-isis-beheads-second-american-hostage>



ISIS has released a video yesterday (Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>) which depicted the beheading of **Steven Sotloff**, an American journalist kept captive by the group. It appears that Sotloff had been killed by the same U.K.-born ISIS militant who beheaded James Foley two weeks ago. U.S. intelligence experts said the video was authentic. The killer warned President Obama to “back off” and end the U.S. bombing campaign against ISIS targets, then warned other governments which might join the “evil” actions of the United States against ISIS. **The video shows another kneeling captive**, who is described as a British national (the U.K. has identified the hostage as David Cawthorne Haines, an aid worker).

**Where do they come from?**

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2014/09/homeland-security-worldwide-news/>

**CNN mapped origin countries of jihadists who travel to fight in Syria and Iraq:**

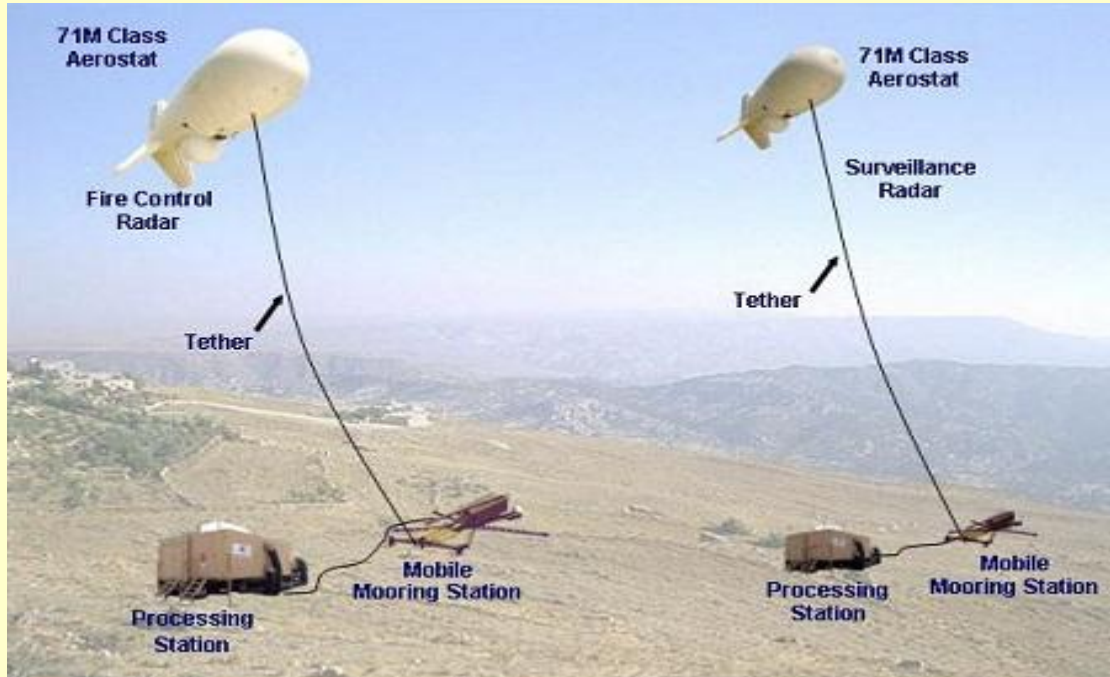
Tunisia 3,000, Saudia Arabia 2,300, Morocco 1,500, Russia 800, France 700, Australia and Belgium 250, Canada and Finland 30, Denmark 100, Holland 120, Sweden 30, Spain 50, Switzerland 10, Turkey 400, The UK 500, The US 100, Singapore 1.



## Italian Army is evaluating a tethered hovering platform for convoy protection

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2014/09/italian-army-evaluating-tethered-hovering-platform-convoy-protection/>

The Italian Army has been evaluating an unlimited aerial surveillance system for real-time convoy protection. The system named **COBRA**, developed by ERMES Technologies and delivered by Eurolink Systems, was finally accepted on April 2014 and is actually under evaluation by the Engineers Command.



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According to sUAS, convoys are of crucial importance for logistics and operations. That's why militaries invest time and money to counteract threats they could encounter during the trip. Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), attacks from insurgents and so on can slow down or even stop the convoy. Some infantry vehicles have recently been updated with electronic gimbals that allow people to stay clear while having a survey of the area around.

**Those powerful cameras are still subject to some limitations:** if located on vehicle's top they suffer of a limited range and if mounted on a telescopic mast they cannot be extended while moving, requiring the vehicle to just stop.

**The COBRA system consists of a micro UAV connected to the external landing box through an 8 feet cable, allowing an unlimited time mission even while the vehicle is moving at 22-25 mph.** The UAV carries a small HD or IR camera letting the operator to stay clear while surveying a wide area in real time. The mission is completely automatic from take-off to landing and the control software runs on every windows based PC, thus reducing costs of logistics and training. **The "vehicle-following" technology allows operations in GPS-denied environments.** The wired communication let the system to be employed close to an active jammer, as it is in a standard military convoy.

## Local Cops in the U.S use Super Spy Bug

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2014/08/local-cops-u-s-use-super-spy-bug/>

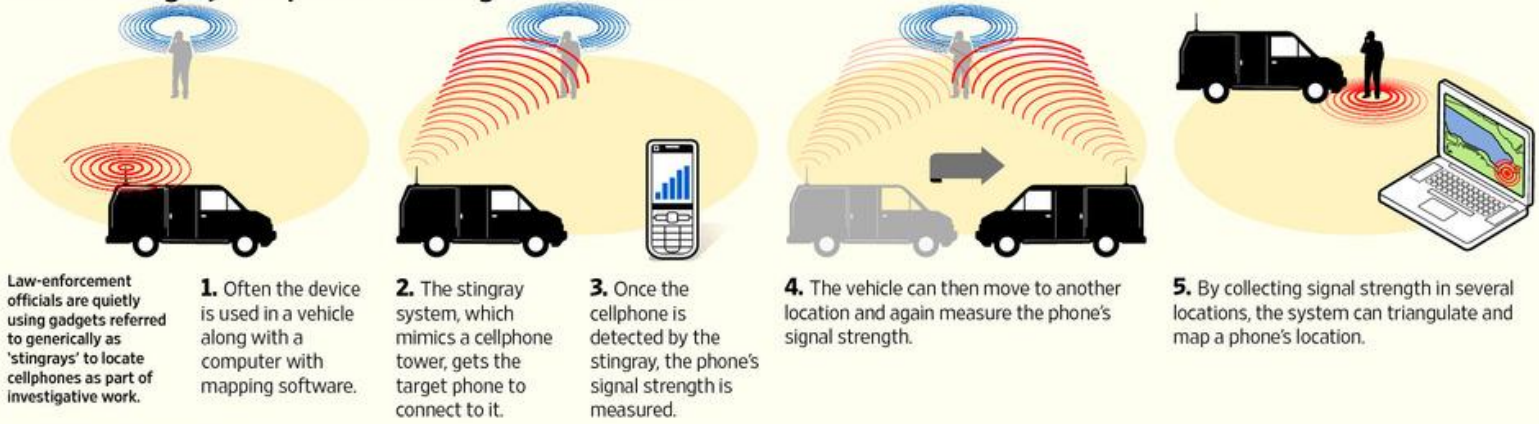
### Privacy? Gone forever.

Police in Tacoma, Washington, bought – and quietly used for six years – surveillance equipment that can sweep up records of every mobile telephone call, text message, and data transfer up to a half-mile from the device.



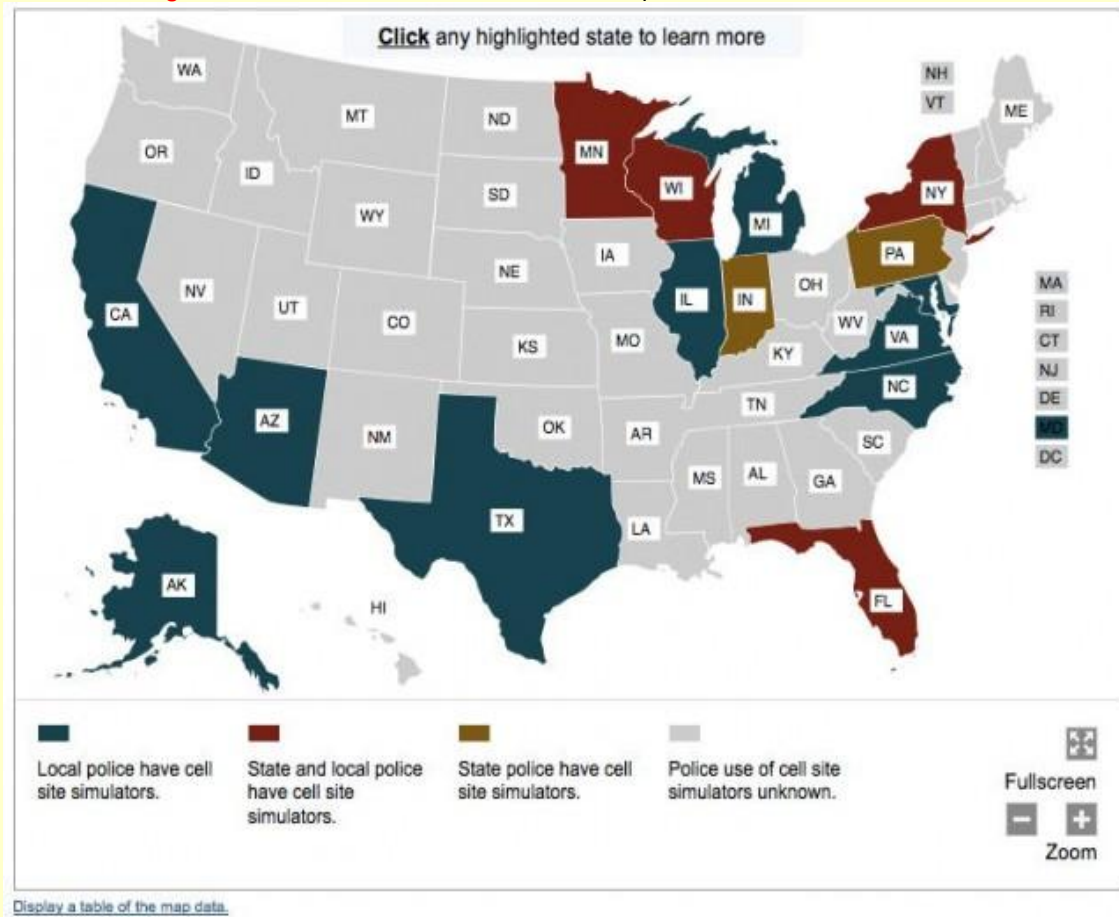
Known as a **Stingray** and manufactured by Harris (HRS), a Pentagon contractor based in Melbourne,

### How a 'Stingray' Cellphone Tracking Device Works



Source: WSJ research and government documents

Fla., the device is small enough to be carried in a car. **It tricks a mobile phone into thinking it's a cell tower, drawing information**, the *Tacoma News Tribune* reported.



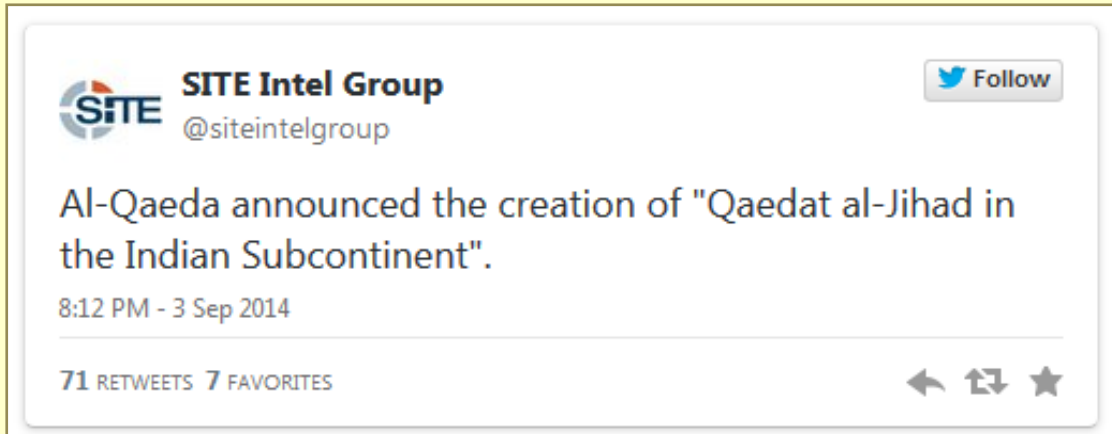
Federal grants, including one from the Department of Homeland Security, were used to buy the equipment, according to public records the newspaper obtained.

Use of the technology is widespread across the U.S. More than 40 law enforcement agencies in 17 states have similar monitoring equipment, known as **"cell site simulators"** or "IMSI catchers," says the American Civil Liberties Union. Police in Oakland, California, has had a Stingray since 2007, when an annual report cited 21 electronic surveillance arrests, the group says.



**Al-Qaeda Launches Jihad in India**

Source: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/386971/al-qaeda-launches-jihad-india-joel-gehrke>



Al-Qaeda announced the formation of a new terrorist franchise, this one operating in India, according to SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist activity. Al-Qaeda hopes to launch “a final apocalyptic war in which India will be conquered by a jihadi army,” according to the *Daily Mail* (read below).

**Al-Qaeda plans final jihad for India: Intel report points to terror recruitment drive targeting nation's Muslims**

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2694949/Al-Qaeda-plans-final-jihad-India-Intel-report-points-terror-recruitment-drive-targeting-nations-Muslims.html#ixzz3CH5CgjQm>

Al-Qaeda is at the gates, and there are enough jihadis within already. Intelligence agencies say the terror network is making inroads into India, sowing the seeds of a "final war" across the country.



Information gathered on al-Qaeda's India plans points to a mobilisation of its resources for jihad.

The ideological goal of the group, as detailed in the report, is chilling: **Ghazwa-e-Hind, or the final battle in India.**

Ghazwa-e-Hind refers to an indoctrinated view of a final apocalyptic war in which India will be

conquered by a jihadi army. All soldiers of this army are guaranteed a place in heaven.

This term is freely used in jihadi circles and on the web, but is considered bizarre by others.

Sources say the security establishment has been on the trail of launch-pads being set up within the country, and is also in touch with its counterparts in West Asia in order to crack the growing network.

An intelligence report on India being used a hunting ground for global jihad reveals al-Qaeda's diabolic roadmap.

To begin with, the terror group that was created and led by Arab fighters now has recruits from Kashmir-centric groups.

"Not only Kashmiri groups but Taliban and al-Qaeda affiliates have

stakes in the larger scheme of Ghazwa-e-Hind where India is regarded as next battleground in the 'End of Times' battle. This ideology is likely to be used to drive Taliban and al-Qaeda affiliates into Kashmir," says an intelligence report.

The al-Qaeda nexus with Kashmir-centric groups indicates



it has a readymade jihadi framework in India. There is other proof too of al-Qaeda using its nexus with Indian groups to spread its

the video and transcripts were posted on several jihadi forums. The videos have speeches asking youths from

## FROM THE REPORT

### IDEOLOGICAL GOALS

**Ghazwa-e-Hind: The final battle is in India. This is the ideology being followed by terror groups like al-Qaeda and Taliban where India is regarded as the next battle-ground. Ideology is used to drive Taliban and al-Qaeda affiliates into Kashmir.**

### FOCUS ON INDIA

**TTP leader Wali ur Rehman, who was killed in a drone attack, had pledged to send fighters to Kashmir and wage war for the implementation Sharia rule in India. There are inputs that al-Qaeda is running a separate terror module in India.**

### HUNTING GROUND FOR GLOBAL JIHAD

**Al-Qaeda's propaganda arm, Al Sahab, released a video recently, titled 'Why is there no storm in your ocean?' The videos have speeches asking youth from Delhi, UP, Bihar, Gujarat and other places to join the forces of global jihad.**

### INSTABILITY IN AF-PAK REGION

**With withdrawal of American troops, there are fears of terror groups like Pakistan Taliban and other associated groups shifting focus to Kashmir. Terror groups in Af-Pak region have affiliations with Kashmiri groups.**

ideology.

An online English publication of al-Qaeda called Azan which is not available to the general public but is circulated through changing e-mails and encryption tools is being downloaded by Kashmiri groups.

Sources say this only underlines the trend of terror groups within India getting attracted to the al-Qaeda and global jihad ideology.

Agencies fear that the Azan tactic of spreading the terror group's ideology could spawn anonymous and isolated modules that will be difficult to detect but potent enough to carry out big attacks.

Intelligence reports also state that groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban have declared they will open 'offices' in Kashmir.

It has been revealed that a Taliban flag was hoisted at a point overlooking Srinagar last year, and the walls of Hari Parbat fort were painted with slogans like 'Welcome Taliban.'

Sources say there is an urgent need for the home ministry and intelligence agencies to understand the threat.

"Indicators need to be monitored to prevent the situation from worsening," said one official.

Al-Qaeda's propaganda arm, Al Sahab, released a video recently, titled 'Why is there no storm in your ocean?' The report states that

Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and South India to join the global jihad. Incidentally, these are the areas where young men were recruited by the Indian Mujahideen (IM), India's homegrown terror group that has become synonymous with bomb blasts in public places. With the IM facing a major setback because of a series of arrests, including that of its top leader Yasin Bhatkal, sources say Indians fighting in Iraq for terror group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are part of larger scheme. Many more recruits are getting attracted to the global jihad that can later be used to wage war against India.

There are also distinct inputs on al-Qaeda running a separate terror module in India as the homegrown terror outfit IM is making efforts to go global and establish strong links with groups like al-Qaeda, Taliban and Hizbut Tahrir.

There is also evidence of al-Qaeda keeping a close watch on activities in India. The charge-sheet filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against Bhatkal says that organisations al-Qaeda and the Taliban are helping IM.

It also mentioned that the investigation revealed that some



IM members are fighting on the Afghanistan-Pakistan Border.

NIA has said in the charge-sheet that Riyaz Bhatkal, a top IM commander based in Pakistan, travelled to tribal belts on the Af-Pak border to establish contact with al-Qaeda.

"After the meeting, which was very fruitful, Al Qaeda gave specific tasks to the IM for execution and agreed to train their cadres in terrorist activities," the charge-sheet says.

# 1 сентября 2004

## Ten years after Beslan school siege, survivors struggle to make a new life

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/01/beslan-school-massacre-ten-years>



As Nadezhda Guriyeva huddled with her children on the floor of the sweltering school gymnasium, an explosive device rested ominously just a few feet away.



Guriyeva's youngest daughter, Irina, survived.

of the sweltering school gymnasium, an explosive device rested ominously just a few feet away. Boris and Vera, Guriyeva's two older children, were dressed for a folk dance performance that had been planned to celebrate the first day of school. Those festivities never began.

Boris and Vera were among the **334 people, including 186 children, who were killed amid explosions and hails of bullets after being held captive for two days in a terrorist attack on School No 1 in Beslan, North Ossetia.**



It was Irina's escape that has allowed Guriyeva to carry on in the aftermath of such horror. "I had no choice," Guriyeva says. "I had my little daughter. She was always watching me to see if I cried. I



couldn't even cry."

Ten years have passed since armed militants stormed the school on 1 September 2004, and took 1,100 children, mothers and teachers hostage in the gymnasium. The ordeal came to an end 52 hours later.



But for the survivors and their loved ones, it changed everything.

"Some left for good and completely altered their lives," says Guriyeva, who has taught at School No 1 for 36 years. She returned to work just two months after the tragedy. "Some dedicated their lives to investigating what happened. Some lend me a helping hand, for instance, with the museum [commemorating the tragedy]. Some still cry and live at the cemetery, trying to raise their children there."





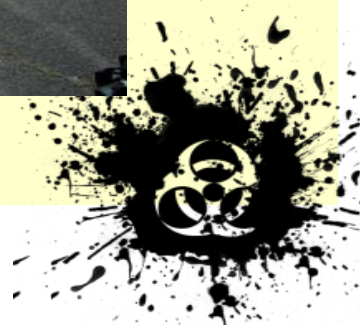
Guriyeva, 54, coped with witnessing the deaths of her own son and daughter in part by internalising her sorrow. “I decided that, however terrible the grief, you must not transfer it to other people,” she says. “It feels like it happened yesterday.”



After seizing the school that morning, dozens of Ingush and Chechen gunmen herded the hostages from the courtyard into the small gymnasium and rigged it with homemade bombs. They issued their demands: the withdrawal of Russian troops from the war-torn North Caucasus republic of Chechnya. Guriyeva, who had already taught at the school for 26 years, was one of the last to be moved inside. Only then did she realise her three children were there.

**“Some still cry and live at the cemetery, trying to raise their children there”**

“Ten years have gone by,” she says. “I just don’t understand how we survived it. Not dying from the



explosions, but from those 52 hours we spent there. It was real horror.”

When the hostages failed to remain quiet, the gunmen executed a man at the front of the gymnasium to make their point.

### Tears of blood

At first children were allowed to use the bathroom, where they tried to drink water to bring short relief from the stifling heat at the end of a fiercely hot summer. To this day, mourners bring open bottles of water to the gymnasium as offerings to the dead. Boris, 14, was running a temperature that day and was too weak to go.

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“The militants broke the sinks and smashed the pipes so that we couldn’t drink water,” Guriyeva says. “The [children] tried to soak it up in their shirts where it dripped in order to bring it back. Some children brought their mums water in their mouths.”

Negotiations made no progress, and by the second day almost no children were allowed out.

After midday on 3 September, Guriyeva remembers an almost delirious longing for the standoff to end, whatever the consequences. It soon did. A deadly silence had often reigned in the hall. The militants had fired shots into the ceiling to keep them still. But already the hundreds of captives were becoming unruly.

### **One little girl who managed to escape ran straight to a drinking fountain, Guriyeva recalls. “She couldn’t stay away from the fountain - to the water,” she says. “A sniper killed her on the spot.”**

Shortly after 1 pm, a powerful explosion shook the gymnasium.

Those who could summon the strength stood up and ran, though many were promptly gunned down as they fled, Guriyeva says. “From the second floor attic, the militants began firing at the backs of the children running away,” she says.

One little girl who managed to escape ran straight to a drinking fountain, Guriyeva recalls. “She couldn’t stay away from the fountain - to the water,” she says. “A sniper killed her on the spot.”



A second explosion followed quickly, bringing the roof down and igniting a fire. "When I came to, my little Verochka was no longer alive," Guriyeva says.

She points to a photograph of Vera, who was 11-years-old at the time of the attack.

"She had the same expression as she has there. She had exactly that smile, only her eyes were closed and there were tears of blood on her cheeks," Guriyeva says.

In her hand, Guriyeva recalls, Vera clasped a cross that she had found, and her arms were crossed over her chest. She had a shrapnel wound in the back of her head.

Boris was covered in blood, much of it Guriyeva's. But shrapnel had penetrated his stomach and exited through his back.

Irina suffered only minor injuries, and Guriyeva told her to make a dash for it. Boris was still breathing, and Guriyeva stayed with him. With her arm badly injured, however, he was too heavy to carry. She dragged him to a group of hostages who were also unable to move due to their injuries. Fragments of body parts lay nearby.

The militants ordered Guriyeva out of the gymnasium toward the cafeteria. Grabbing a small girl by the hand, she ended up in the adjacent kitchen where, parched, they drank filthy water that their captors had used to defrost chicken legs. She told the little girl to wait for her there and returned to get Boris. The militants stopped her and turned her away. One of them smashed out her teeth with a rifle.

As Russian special forces moved in, Guriyeva escaped out of a window. Irina had made it too.

Both Boris' and Vera's remains would be scorched in the blaze that tore through the gym. Vera's body was identified from the traditional dress she had worn for the planned folk dance.

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"After such a cruel situation, every person has to find meaning in life again, to find something to live for - or to just fade away and end up in the cemetery, too. We had suicides among adult men. A fair number of our men ended their own lives," says Guriyeva.

Questions still persist about culpability in the bloody conclusion of the crisis, including whether the militants or Russian security forces initiated the final firefight. Some were unable to forget these questions.

Guriyeva's husband, Stanislav, was tormented by thoughts of revenge and the conflicting belief that finding those responsible was impossible, and that mindless violence leads to more violence, she explains.

A year-and-a-half ago, at age 46, Stanislav passed away. He had turned to alcohol. "He couldn't sort himself out. He turned to alcohol to forget, and alcohol finished him off," Guriyeva says.



**A new life**

Two months after the tragedy, Guriyeva was teaching again. A new school was built opposite School No 1, across the railway tracks where cows and goats graze. Multicoloured lettering above the entrance proclaims: "The start of a new life."  
"My first lesson was with my son's old class," she says. "I was walking down the hallway and a little girl came up to me and said: 'Great, Nadezhda, you've come! Where's Borya?' People didn't know at that point who had died and who hadn't. Our first class, we simply cried together."



10 yrs after: Tskaeva Alena and her savior Elbrus Gogichaev

For Guriyeva, teaching was a source of strength: it's like acting, she says. "Whether you like it or not, whether it hurts or not, whether your heart is breaking into pieces, you have to go out and teach children," she says. "I had 10 children outside the school classes whose homes I worked at. Before going in, it was: deep breath, put a smile on and go in, finish teaching, go out and cry all the way to the next home. Some of the children were so difficult."

**A new school was built opposite School No 1, across the railway tracks where cows and goats graze. Multicoloured lettering above the entrance proclaims: "The start of a new life."**



But for Guriyeva, it's not about escaping the past.



“The story of School No 1 is our story,” she says. “The terrorist attack is our story. It’s hard. It’s terrifying. It’s bloody. But it is our story. We remember it. We didn’t move to a new school and begin a new life. We didn’t start afresh. We continue to live our life.”



A cemetery in Beslan, North Osetia--the last abode of victims of the September 2004 appalling terror act at secondary school No. 1 (RIA Novosti/Kazbek Basaev).



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## Terrorism won't be beaten by removing people's passports

Believing in and practising the principles of the rule of law is among the most powerful weapons we have to protect us

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**Dominic Grieve**  
 The Guardian, Wednesday 3 September 2014 14.51 BST

 Jump to comments (439)

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Allowing police to confiscate passports at the UK border to prevent an aspiring young Jihadi from leaving for Syria via Istanbul may be justifiable on good intelligence but there must be the likelihood that mistakes will occur.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/sep/03/terrorism-passports-rule-of-law>

### Terrorist tanker training?

Source: [http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/3/inside-the-ring-terrorist-tanker-training/?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/3/inside-the-ring-terrorist-tanker-training/?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS)

September 03 – U.S. intelligence agencies last month reported that a group of 22 Yemeni-



Americans were training in Houston to be seamen on oil tankers, raising terrorism concerns over the unusual activity. The Department of Homeland Security issued an Aug. 26 report from its National Terrorism Advisory System about the case.

**“Reporting revealed that 22 students of Middle Eastern descent from Michigan and California were enrolled in recent maritime training courses in Houston, TX to obtain training, licensing, and/or mariner ratings during calendar year 2014,”** the report said. **“All students were naturalized U.S. citizens from Yemen.”**

The report said the U.S. government received confidential information from intelligence sources indicating suspicions about the Yemeni-Americans attending the seamanship classes. Most of the men were from Dearborn, Michigan, and their training in Texas was considered unusual because other marine



training schools are located closer to Michigan. An investigation revealed that all the students worked on oil carriers in the Great Lakes and came to Texas because similar schools in Michigan had closed. Twenty of the students were from Dearborn, and two were from Oakland, California.

**The training they received allows them to qualify for work on ocean-going oil tankers and ships.**

“Database checks did not reveal any nefarious connections,” the report said.

However, the report was circulated to DHS-related intelligence units throughout the country, and law enforcement agencies in Detroit, San Francisco and Houston.

Yemen is a hub for the terrorist group al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which has carried out two failed terrorist attacks on U.S. airliners in recent years.

Security officials are concerned al Qaeda-linked terrorists may be preparing an attack using a hijacked oil tanker, either by blowing it up or using it as an environmental weapon.

**Al-Qaeda fleet takes terrorist threat to sea**

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2002/12/31/1041196641696.html>

01 Jan 2003 – **United States intelligence officials have identified about 15 freighters around the world that they believe are controlled by al-Qaeda or could be used by the terrorist network to ferry operatives, bombs, money or commodities, government officials said.**

US officials cite such scenarios as al-Qaeda dispatching an explosives-packed speedboat to blow a hole in the hull of a luxury cruise ship sailing the Caribbean Sea or having terrorists pose as crewmen and slam a freighter carrying dangerous chemicals into a harbour.

American spy agencies track some of the suspicious ships by satellites or surveillance planes and with the help of allied navies or informants in overseas ports. But they have occasionally lost track of the vessels, which are continuously given new fictitious names, repainted or re-registered using invented corporate owners.

Since the September 11, 2001 attacks, US intelligence agencies have set up large databases to track cargo, ships and seamen in a search for "anomalies" that could indicate terrorists on approaching ships, said Frances Fragos-Townsend, the chief of Coast Guard intelligence.

Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda's leader, and his aides have owned ships for years, some of which transported commodities such as cement and sesame seeds. But one vessel delivered the explosives that al-Qaeda

operatives used to bomb two US embassies in Africa in 1998, US officials said.

**Since September 11, the US list of al-Qaeda mystery ships has varied from a low of a dozen to a high of 50.**

Starting with the suicide bombing of the USS Cole off Yemen in 2000 by al-Qaeda men in an inflatable dinghy, a strike that killed 17 sailors, US officials have noted a steady increase in nautical attacks, some of which were aborted by the planners or uncovered by authorities at the last moment.

The latest came in October, when the hull of the French oil tanker Limburg was blasted by a speedboat off Yemen, causing a widespread oil spill. Now US Navy and Coast Guard intelligence are sorting through the corporate papers of the world's 120,000 merchant ships. US intelligence officers are also collating the names and mariners' licence numbers of tens of thousands of seamen from around the world, a sizeable percentage of whom carry fake documents and use pseudonyms because of criminal pasts.


US Navy intelligence is also sharing information with dozens of allied navies, and has enlisted informants among port managers, shipping agents, crew manning supervisors and seafarers' unions.

Dozens of navy and allied ships are scouring the Arabian Sea in search of al-Qaeda ships and fighters, in one of the largest naval seahunts since World War II. Members have boarded and searched hundreds of ships.



US efforts to track al-Qaeda's activities at sea received a boost last month with the capture of Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, an alleged mastermind of al-Qaeda's nautical strategy who officials say is now co-operating with US interrogators. Another captured operative, Omar al-Faruq, has told interrogators that he planned scuba attacks on US warships in Indonesia.

**Navy officials say al-Qaeda has used one shipping fleet flagged in the Pacific island nation of Tonga to transport operatives around the Mediterranean.** The firm - which is called Nova and is incorporated in Delaware and Romania - has allegedly been smuggling illegal immigrants for years, **US and Greek officials** said. Its ships also frequently change names and countries of registry, officials said.



**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** It is not only maritime training schools! **Keep an open eye** on diving schools, aviation schools, heli and light aircrafts renting enterprises, corps' spraying aircrafts companies, big model airplanes' sales, light aircrafts training schools – just to mention a few! Evil minds always generate new evil ways of destruction...

## FBI National Domestic Threat Assessment Omits Islamist Terrorism

Source: <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/fbi-national-domestic-threat-assessment-omits-islamist-terrorism/>

**The FBI's most recent national threat assessment for domestic terrorism makes no reference to Islamist terror threats, despite last year's Boston Marathon bombing and the 2009 Fort Hood shooting—both carried out by radical Muslim Americans.**

extremist movements—none motivated by radical Islam.

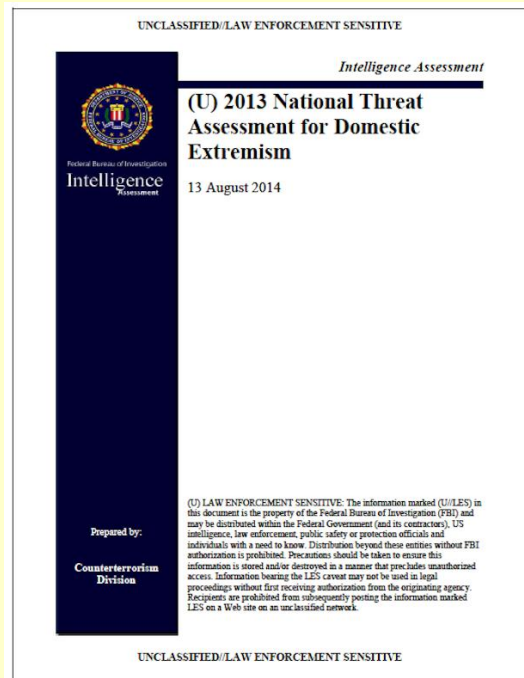
They include anti-government militia groups and white supremacy extremists, along with “sovereign citizen” nationalists, and anarchists. Other domestic threat groups outlined by the FBI assessment include violent animal rights and environmentalist extremists, black separatists, anti- and pro-abortion activists, and Puerto Rican nationalists.

“Domestic extremist violence continues to be unpredictable and, at times, severe,” the report states.

A copy of the unclassified, 60-page National Threat Assessment for Domestic Extremism, dated Aug. 14, was obtained by the *Washington Free Beacon*. It warns that the threat of domestic-origin extremism was moderate in 2013 and will remain so for this year.

“Domestic extremists collectively presented a medium-level threat to the United States in 2013; the FBI assesses the 2014 threat will remain close to this level,” the report said.

On black separatists, the report warned that “high-profile racially charged crimes or events” could lead to an expansion of black separatist groups. The report identified three such groups as the New Black Panther Party, the Israelite Church of God in Jesus Christ, and the Black Hebrew Israelite group as extremists under FBI scrutiny.



Instead, the internal FBI intelligence report concluded in its 2013 assessment published this month that the threat to U.S. internal security from extremists is limited to attacks and activities by eight types of domestic





An alternative assessment section in the report warned that radical black activists could “reinitiate violence at the historically high levels seen for the movement during the 1970s, when bombings, assassinations, hijackings, and hostage-takings occurred.”

“Such a scenario could occur as an extreme response to perceptions of devolving racial equality or perceptions of racially-motivated police brutality, or racially-biased injustice, oppression, or judicial rulings,” the report said. “Indicators include increased weapons procurement, reports of sophisticated plots, and development of an explosives capability.” Black extremist groups may also seek “stronger ties to foreign governments in exchange for financial resources,” the report said.

**The report was written before the racial unrest in Ferguson, Mo.**

However, it mentions that black separatist extremists stepped up threats against law enforcement officers, the U.S. government, and non-blacks following the Trayvon Martin shooting in 2012.

“FBI investigations reveal black separatist extremists engaged in financial crimes, and drug and weapons trafficking, possibly to finance activities and maintain access to weapons,” the report said.

FBI intelligence sources reported that domestic extremist groups “aspired” to carry out violent attacks. “Of a sample of 50 credible violent threat intelligence reports analyzed for this assessment, nearly 60 percent expressed lethal violence as an ultimate goal,” the report said, noting militias seeking the overthrow of the U.S. government, sovereign citizens, white supremacists and black separatists were among those seeking to conduct deadly attacks.

“Lone actors and small cells will continue to present the greatest threat in 2014,” the report says. “Some of these individuals will engage in lethal violence, although it is most likely the majority of violent criminal acts will continue to be characterized as serious crimes, such as arson and assault, but which are not, ultimately lethal.”



The Bureau anticipates an increase in activity by animal rights and environmental extremists, such as releasing animals and damaging property, as both movements began expanding in late 2013. Additionally, a similar level of activity is expected this year for anarchist, anti-government militias, white supremacy, and sovereign citizen extremists.

For abortion extremism, the report says violence prone groups fall into two categories, “anti-abortion” and “pro-choice,” but notes the primary threat of abortion extremism comes from lone individuals, not groups.

Puerto Rican nationalist extremists were described as “followers of Marxist-Leninist ideology,” have targeted the U.S. government for destabilization, and are seeking to create an independent island nation.

The FBI estimates domestic extremists caused more than \$15 million in financial losses in 2012 and 2013, mainly through animal rights and environmental activities that targeted U.S. agriculture.

“It is highly likely extremists will continue to exact financial losses in 2014, with the agriculture, construction, and financial sectors serving as the most probable targets.”

FBI spokesman Paul Bresson said the issue of not identifying Islamist-origin terrorism in the report “has more to do with how the FBI, from an organizational standpoint, distinguishes [domestic terrorism] and [international terrorism].”

“The intended audience of this bulletin understands how we make that distinction,” Bresson said in an email, adding that the FBI does not define domestic terrorism “the same way the media does.”

The Bureau has limited its analytical description of domestic terrorism to groups and people connected to the eight subgroups outlined in the report that use force or violence to coerce or intimidate the population, he said.

“The FBI categorizes Islamic extremists and individuals inspired by Islamic extremist groups as International Terrorism,” he said. “Even though Ft. Hood and Boston were domestic incidents, the ideology



and motivation of those behind them had international elements.”

He did not elaborate on why the FBI has split local Islamist extremism from other forms of domestic extremism.

However, the report links Puerto Rican nationalists to the foreign ideology of Marxism-Leninism and mentions that black separatists have foreign ties.

**Another explanation for the omission of Islamist extremism in the report is provided in a footnote to a graphic describing an “other” category of domestic extremism not included in the report.** “The ‘Other’ category includes domestic extremist [sic] whose actions were motivated by beliefs which fall outside the eight designated [domestic terrorism] subprograms,” the footnote stated.

The footnote indicates the FBI has separated Islamist terrorism from other domestic extremism.

The Obama administration in 2009 adopted a new policy that substituted the vague term “violent extremism” as a replacement for terrorism.

The graphic showed that domestic extremists killed 43 people from 2003 to 2013 carried out by five categories of terrorists—abortion extremists, black separatists, sovereign citizens, white supremacists, and “others.”

The report left out all references to the April 2013 bombing of the Boston Marathon, which killed three people and injured some 264 others. Two brothers, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who were motivated by Islamist extremist beliefs, carried out the bombing. They learned the techniques for the homemade pressure cooker bombers from an al Qaeda linked magazine.

The FBI had been warned in advance of the attack by Russian security services that the brothers may have links to Chechen terrorists but failed to act.

The FBI report also made no direct reference to the 2009 Fort Hood shooting, by radicalized Army Maj. Nidal Hasan. The mass shooting left 13 dead and more than 30 injured.

Former FBI Agent John Guandolo said he was not surprised the report did not include any reference to domestic-origin Islamic terror.

“It should not surprise anyone who follows the jihadi threats in the United States that the FBI would not even include ‘Islamic terrorism’ in its assessment of serious threats to the republic in an official report,” Guandolo said.

“Since 9/11, FBI leadership—as well as leaders from Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, CIA, Pentagon, and the National Security Council—relies on easily identifiable jihadis from the Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas, al Qaeda and elsewhere to advise it on how to deal with ‘domestic extremism.’”

Patrick Poole, a domestic terrorism expert, also was critical of the report’s omission of U.S. Islamist extremism, blaming “politically correct” policies at the FBI for the problem.

“At the same time we have senior members of the Obama administration openly saying that it’s not a question of if but when we have a terror attack targeting the United States by ISIL, we have the FBI putting on blinders to make sure they don’t see that threat,” Poole said.

“These politically correct policies have already allowed Americans to be killed at Fort Hood and in Boston,” he added

Guandolo said the failure to recognize the domestic Islamist threat had allowed domestic jihadist groups and their sympathizers to shape U.S. government create policies that do not acknowledge jihad as the root cause for the current global chaos.

An example, he said, is that the FBI has appointed a domestic Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas support organization leader to an FBI advisory council at the Washington headquarters.

Additionally, the FBI is failing to train agents and analysts on the Muslim Brotherhood network in the United States, Guandolo said.

“The FBI, no matter how diligent its agents are in their pursuit of ‘terrorists’, will never defeat this threat because its leaders refuse to address or even identify it,” he said. “This level of negligence on the part of the FBI leaders and their failure to understand the jihadi threat 13 years after 9/11 is appalling.”

Poole said the failure of the FBI to understand the domestic Islamist threat led to the U.S. government categorizing the 2009 Fort Hood shooting Army Maj. Nidal Hasan as “workplace violence.”

“In the case of Fort Hood, the FBI was monitoring Maj. Hasan’s email communication with al Qaeda cleric Anwar al-Awlaki but the FBI headquarters dismissed it because they were talking about ‘religious’ subjects,” Poole said.



"In the Boston bombing case the FBI cleared Tamerlan Tsarnayev with nothing more than a house visit after receiving a tip from Russian intelligence, and never making the connection that he was attending a mosque founded by an imprisoned al Qaeda financier and previously attended by two convicted terrorists," Poole added.

As a result "we have more than a dozen dead Americans killed here at home because of these politically correct FBI policies, and with threats emerging from all corners this doubling-down on political correctness when it comes to Islam is undoubtedly going to get more Americans killed," he added.

The domestic threat assessment is the latest example indicating the FBI has been forced by Obama administration policies from focusing on the domestic terror threat posed by radical Islamists.

**Rep. Louie Gohmert (R., Texas) said in a 2012 House floor speech that the FBI was ordered to purge references to Islam, jihad, and Muslims in its counterterrorism "lexicon" guidelines for its reports.**

As a result, the FBI is hamstrung from understanding the threat of terrorism from

groups like al Qaeda that have declared jihad, or holy war, on the United States, Gohmert said. Guandolo, the former FBI agent, said the vast majority of U.S. Islamic organizations were identified in recent U.S. terrorism trials as part of the Muslim Brotherhood, the parent group for the Palestinian terror group Hamas. Thus, these groups are aligned with the same objectives as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, al Qaeda, and others, he said.

"Our FBI is not teaching their agents and analysts this information; they are not sharing it with local and state law enforcement officials; and they are not investigating and pursuing the very individuals and organizations which are supporting and training jihadis in America," Guandolo said.

**Guandolo said former FBI director Robert Mueller testified to Congress that he was unaware that the Islamic Society of Boston was the organization behind the radicalization of the Tsarnaev brothers. "That tells you all we need to know about the FBI's leadership about the threat here in America from the Islamic Movement—they are clueless," he said.**

**New ISIS threat: America's electric grid; blackout could kill 9 of 10**

By Paul Bedard

Source: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/new-isis-threat-americas-electric-grid-blackout-could-kill-9-of-10/article/2552766>



September 03 – Former top government officials who have been warning

Washington about the vulnerability of the nation's largely unprotected electric grid are raising new fears that troops from the jihadist Islamic State

are poised to attack the system, leading to a power crisis that could kill millions.

**"Inadequate grid security, a porous U.S.-Mexico border, and fragile transmission systems make the electric grid a target for ISIS," said Peter Pry, one of the nation's leading experts on the grid.**

Others joining Pry at a press conference later Wednesday to draw attention to the potential

threat said that if just a handful of the nation's high voltage transformers were knocked out, blackouts would occur across the country.

**"By one estimate, should the power go out and stay out for over a year, nine out of 10 Americans would likely perish,"** said Frank Gaffney, founder and president of the Center for Security Policy in Washington.

At the afternoon press conference, Gaffney dubbed the potential crisis the "grid jihad."

A lack of electricity would shut off water systems, impact city transportation services and shutdown hospitals and other big facilities. Fresh and frozen foods also would be impacted as would banks, financial institutions and utilities.

**A lack of electricity would shut off water systems, impact city transportation services and shutdown hospitals and other big facilities. Fresh and frozen foods also would be impacted as would banks, financial institutions and utilities.**

Pry provided details of recent attacks on electricity systems and said that **ISIS could easily team**



with Mexican drug cartels to ravage America.

He told *Secrets*, for example, that the **Knights Templar drug gang** blacked out the electric grid of the Mexican state of Michoacan in 2013 to provide cover for killing those

in the U.S., and inflict a multi-state blackout immediately, within days or weeks. Perhaps even a nationwide blackout,” Pry explained to *Secrets*.

“I am not saying it is likely they will do so. But given the capabilities and objectives of ISIS and our obvious vulnerabilities, it would be foolish to ignore the threat to the grid, to regard the threat as unlikely. Our planning should be based on imminent asymmetrical threats, and not assume that another 9/11 large-scale attack is years away,” he added.

The Texas Department of Public Safety recently said they believe there is evidence that ISIS plans an attack. Pry, Gaffney and others have been pushing Congress to protect the electric grid from attacks including terrorists, assaults by U.S. foes like North Korea and even sun spots that can zap unprotected transformers with electromagnetic pulse.

Congress **is looking** at legislation to protect the grid via the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.



fighting the drug trade.

“The Knights Templars and other criminal gangs in Mexico will do anything for money, and ISIS, the richest terrorist organization in history, has hundreds of millions of dollars at its disposal,” said Pry.

“ISIS could hire one of the Mexican cartels, or one of their criminal gangs already in the U.S., or activate jihadist terror cells already

have been pushing Congress to protect the electric grid from attacks including terrorists, assaults by U.S. foes like North Korea and even sun spots that can zap unprotected transformers with electromagnetic pulse. Congress **is looking** at legislation to protect the grid via the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.

*No one knows Washington secrets like Paul Bedard. This longtime D.C. reporter joined the Washington Examiner in 2012 after penning U.S. News & World Report's premiere political column, "Washington Whispers," for more than a decade. In addition to his Washington Secrets column, check out two of his signature features, the weekly Zogby's Obama Report Card and the Mainstream Media Scream*

**Leader of al-Shabaab killed in Somalia by US strike**

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/09/05/white-house-pentagon-confirms-leader-al-shabaab-killed-during-somalia-drone/>

September 05 – The leader of the Islamic militant organization behind the slaughter at a Kenya mall last year was killed during a U.S. military strike earlier this week, U.S. officials confirmed on Friday.

Ahmed Abdi Godane — the leader of al-Shabaab – was killed during an airstrike Monday that also claimed the lives of 10 other militants.

President Obama, speaking at a NATO summit in Wales, said the successful strike was an example of his administration’s push against terrorism.

“We have been very systematic and methodical in going after these kind of organizations” that threaten U.S. personnel and the homeland, Obama said. “That deliberation allows us to do it right, but have no doubt: We will continue to do what is necessary to protect the American people.”



Earlier, the White House and Pentagon released statements confirming Godane's death.



“Godane's removal is a major symbolic and operational loss to the largest Al Qaeda affiliate in Africa and reflects years of painstaking work by our intelligence, military and law enforcement professionals,” the White House said.

U.S. officials had said after the strike on Monday that U.S. special operations forces using manned and drone aircraft had destroyed an encampment and a vehicle using several Hellfire missiles and laser-guided munitions. But they did not confirm that Godane had been killed until Friday.

**Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for last September's Westgate Mall shooting that left 68 dead and another 200 injured.**

The State Department declared al-Shabab a terrorist organization in February 2008.

<b>BEHEADED</b>	<b>BEHEADED</b>	<b>EXPECTING...*</b>
 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">دين رضوا بأن تقودهم الخلافة الإسلامية بكل أوائهم وألستنا</p>		
<p>American hostage James Foley</p>	<p>American hostage Steven Sotloff (sold to IS for 25-50K...)</p>	<p>British hostage David Haines with his four-year-old daughter</p>

\* Beheaded: Sept 13, 2014.

### Ja sa paguhen shqiptarët në Siri?

What Albanians are paid [to fight] in Syria?

Source (in Albanian): <http://botasot.info/lajme/324787/ja-sa-paguhen-shqiptaret-ne-siri/>



September 06 – Sipas disa burimeve brenda gazetës thuhet se shqiptarët që shkojnë për të luftuar në Siri, marrin rreth 65 euro për një ditë. (According to some sources within the newspaper [Bota Sot – World Today] claimed that the Albanians who go to fight in Syria, take about 65 euros for a day.)



Sigurisht se kjo shumë e parave ka bërë që shumë të rinjë nga Kosova, por edhe nga vendet tjera me të ardhura të ulëta financiare, zgjedhin që të shkojnë në Siri për të luftuar.  
 Pra, vetëm 65 euro në ditë, për tu shndërruar në terroristë, për të mos kursyer as jetën e shumë njerëzve, përfshirë edhe fëmijët. **(So just 65 euros a day, to become terrorists, not even sparing the lives of many people, including children.)**



**The Bodies Pile up while the US and UN Bury Their Heads in the Sand**

By Jack Murphy

Source: <http://sofrep.com/36827/bodies-pile-us-un-bury-heads-sand/>

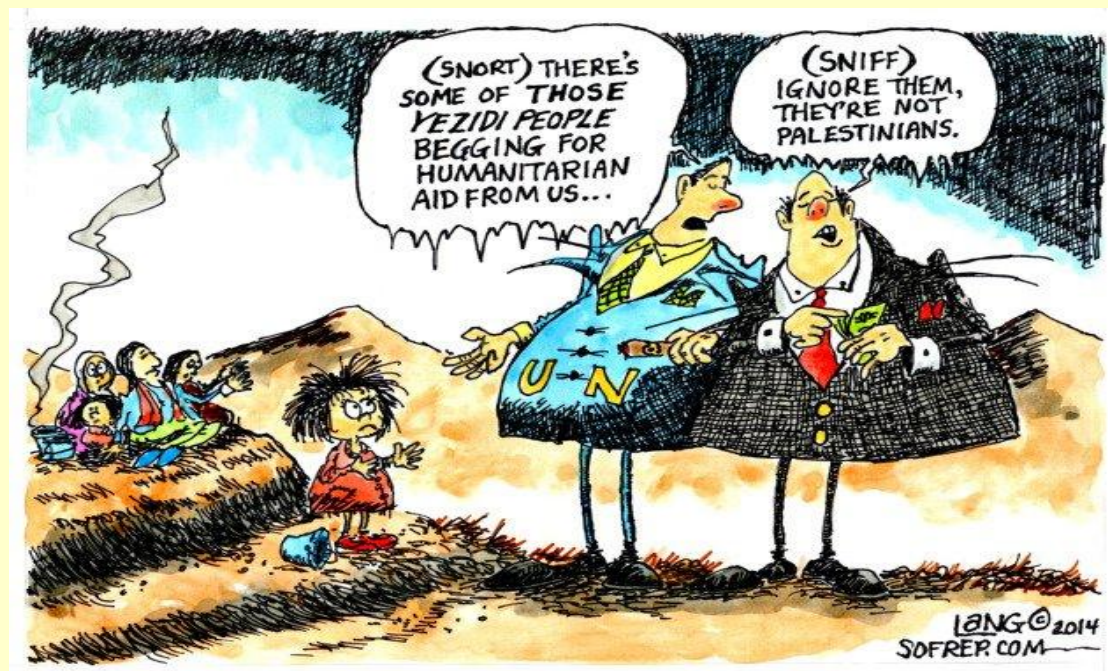


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**The United Nations Throws the Yezidi Under the Bus**

Source: <http://sofrep.com/36827/bodies-pile-us-un-bury-heads-sand/>



*Jack Murphy is an eight year Army Special Operations veteran who served as a Sniper and Team Leader in 3rd Ranger Battalion and as a Senior Weapons Sergeant on a Military Free Fall team in 5th Special Forces Group. Having left the military in 2010, he is now working towards a degree in Political Science at Columbia University. Murphy is the author of Reflexive Fire, Target Deck, the PROMIS series, and numerous non-fiction articles about Weapons, Tactics, Special Operations, Terrorism, and Counter-Terrorism. He has appeared in documentaries, national television, and syndicated radio.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Another proof who I love cartoonists so much and why I think they deserve a place in national and international governances! They are genius; do not speak senselessly in public and their drawings always catch the core of the problems addressed!

一张照片是千言万语！

### Germany won't tolerate 'Sharia police'

Source: <http://www.dw.de/germany-wont-tolerate-sharia-police/a-17906086>



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Conservative members of Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition put forward a united front at the weekend against recent developments in the city of Wuppertal. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said civilians wearing uniforms bearing the logo "Shariah police" could not simply start patrolling German streets.

The groups reportedly hovered around sites like discotheques and gambling houses, telling passers-by to refrain from gambling and alcohol. Wuppertal's police have begun pressing charges.

"Sharia law is not tolerated on German soil," de Maiziere told mass-circulation daily Bild on Saturday. "Nobody can take it upon themselves to abuse the good name of the German police."

Justice Minister Heiko Maas, meanwhile, told Bild that "the state alone" was responsible for the administration of justice in Germany. It was obvious, Maas said, that any illegal parallel system of law enforcement would not be tolerated. Christian Democrat party whip Volker Kauder was similarly emphatic in an interview to be published in this week's Welt am Sonntag newspaper.

"Under absolutely no circumstances can we tolerate self-styled 'Sharia police officers' patrolling our streets and dictating what people should or should not do," Kauder said.



#### Ringleader: goal was attention

The 33-year-old behind the Wuppertal patrols, former fireman Sven Lau (right in picture), published a video on his website on Saturday. Lau said that a "Sharia police" never existed, and that a group of men had simply worn the mock uniforms for a few hours.



"We knew that this would raise attention," Lau said, claiming that his goal was to spark a debate about Sharia law in Germany.

Lau is a leading member of Germany's Salafist movement, advocates of a strict Sunni interpretation of political Islam. He works with a mosque in his native Mönchengladbach, not far west of Wuppertal, and used to head the fundamentalist group "Invitation to Paradise." (Einladung zum Paradies, in German.)

The central council of Muslims in Germany (ZMD) condemned the activities. "These few teen jobs do not speak in our name," chairman Ayman A. Mazyek told the Tagesspiegel am Sonntag newspaper. "These people are perverting the name of our religion. With this shrill and foolish action, they are really hurting Muslims."

Sharia law is the Arabic term for a legal system based on the Koran. Saudi Arabia and Iran are examples of countries where such a system officially applies. Wearing a veil is obligatory for women and corporal punishment such as stoning is legally tolerated. Human Rights Watch reported last month that Saudi Arabia had beheaded 19 people in just 16 days in August, for convictions on charges ranging from cannabis smuggling to "sorcery."

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Just a photo from London without any further comment...



**Somalia's Islamist rebels, al-Shabab, name new leader**

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/somalias-islamist-rebels-al-shabab-name-new-leader/2014/09/06/0ed5825e-3601-11e4-9e92-0899b306bbea\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/somalias-islamist-rebels-al-shabab-name-new-leader/2014/09/06/0ed5825e-3601-11e4-9e92-0899b306bbea_story.html)

September 06 – **Somalia's Islamist rebels, al-Shabab, named a new leader Saturday after confirming the killing of their previous leader by a U.S. airstrike**, a commander of the group said.

The Somali militants unanimously selected **Ahmed Omar, also known as Abu Ubaidah**, at a meeting in an undisclosed location in Somalia, said rebel commander Abu Mohammed.

Al-Shabab also stated **that it remains aligned with al-Qaeda**, according to the Site Intelligence Group, which monitors statements by Islamist militant groups.

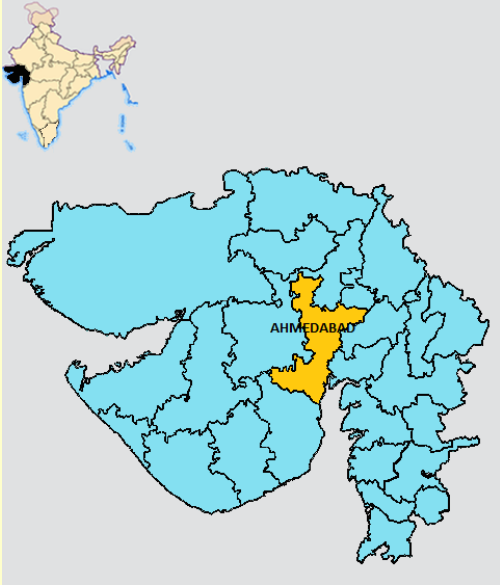




## Terror threat scan reveals 170 soft spots in Ahmedabad

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Ahmedabad/Terror-threat-scan-reveals-170-soft-spots-in-Ahmedabad/articleshow/41907276.cms>

September 07 – **The city police have identified more than 170 places, including vital installations, in Ahmedabad where security needs to be beefed up.**



The police have made this assessment following the release of the video in which the al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri is threatening of terror attacks in Gujarat and other places in India.

"We have identified 170 points as sensitive. These include vital installations like premier institutions, offices run by central and state governments, religious places as well as entry and exit points to Gandhinagar," said Ahmedabad police commissioner Shivanand Jha.

Senior officers of the city police have also been instructed to supervise security arrangements at such places. "Armed police personnel will be stationed at all these 170 points. Local police have been instructed to spend more time patrolling their areas," said Jha.

Meanwhile, sources in the intelligence agencies confirmed that the al Qaida videotape is authentic. "We have received information that the al Qaida, with the help of local extremist outfits like SIMI and the foot soldiers of Indian Mujahideen, can carry out terror attacks in Gujarat," a source said.

The sources also claimed that al Qaeda is using Gujarat to regain lost ground. "If a terror attack is carried out in Gujarat, the terrorists will not plan it with the help of local youths. They are more likely to use youths lured into terrorism from other states in India," said a source in the intelligence community.

A top police official, who was part of the anti-terror operations after the serial blasts of July 2008, said that local youths who were part of the module which had carried out the blasts, were the first to confess and spill the beans. This had led to the arrest of top members of the module.

Meanwhile, all three physical layers of security - the BSF, intelligence agencies and the police - have been asked to stay on high alert in areas of the state bordering Pakistan and Rajasthan. "Senior officials of central intelligence are in constant touch with the state police," said a senior police official.

Sources in the police confirmed that after the Al Qaeda video threatening of terror attacks surfaced, a series of meetings was held between the BSF, intelligence agencies, the Army and the local police in the border areas of Gujarat. A source in the police said that during the monsoon, infiltration via desert areas is almost impossible because of the slush.

**"Areas of greatest concern for us are the sea coast and Rajasthan from where terrorists can infiltrate into the state,"** said a source.

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## A Former Gitmo Detainee Recently 'Returned to the Fight'

Source: <https://news.vice.com/article/new-us-intelligence-report-a-former-gitmo-detainee-recently-returned-to-the-fight>

**How many of the 88 Guantanamo detainees who President Barack Obama has released from the detention facility have since engaged in terrorism?**

Not many, according to the latest Guantanamo recidivism report [summary pdf below] released September 5 by the Office of



the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). ODNI says that six of the 88 detainees who were released from Guantanamo since Obama took office in 2009 were *confirmed of re-engaging*. That's one more than there were when the agency filed its last report in March.

**The new report also says that one of the 88 detainees is suspected of re-engaging.** It's



almost certain that one of the additional former detainees in question is Moazzam Begg, who was arrested in Britain in February and accused by law enforcement authorities there of engaging in terrorism-related offenses — including a visit to a terrorist training camp — connected with trips he made to Syria. It's unclear, however, whether Begg would be the detainee who falls into ODNI's *suspected of re-engaging* category, or the additional detainee listed in the *confirmed of re-engaging* category. The agency does not identify the detainees in question, nor does it provide details about the activities they are alleged to have engaged in. The report defines "terrorist" or "insurgent" activities as "planning terrorist operations, conducting a terrorist or insurgent attack against Coalition or host-nation forces or civilians, conducting a suicide bombing, financing terrorist operations, recruiting others for terrorist operations, and arranging for movement of individuals involved in terrorist operations."

In its recidivism report, ODNI defines *confirmed of re-engaging* as: "A preponderance of information which identifies a specific former GTMO detainee as directly involved in terrorist or insurgent activities. For the purposes of this definition, engagement in anti-US statements or propaganda does not qualify as terrorist or insurgent activity."

ODNI's basis for suspicions involve "plausible but unverified or single-source reporting

indicating a specific former GTMO detainee is directly involved in terrorist or insurgent activities."

The report notes that making statements or writing books critical of the US government and its foreign policy do not qualify as terrorist or insurgent activity in either category.

At its peak, Guantanamo held 779 prisoners. Under President George W. Bush's tenure, 532 detainees were released from the detention facility. Of those, 101 — or 19 percent — were confirmed to have re-engaged. (ODNI reports that 23 of the 101 are dead and 25 are back in custody.) Another 76, or 14.3 percent, were suspected of re-engagement.

A report last March in the *Christian Science Monitor* noted that the recidivism rate at Guantanamo is far lower than the US prison recidivism rate, which is more than 60 percent. But the ODNI statistics can be manipulated — and have been repeatedly in attacks by partisan lawmakers.

"The recidivism rate is nearly 29 percent and has been climbing steadily since detainees began being released from Guantanamo," Senator Saxby Chambliss said last November during a congressional debate about whether to loosen restrictions to make it easier for Obama to release cleared detainees. "This includes nearly 10 percent of detainees who have returned to the fight after being transferred by the current administration following the administration's extensive review of each detainee."

As the *Washington Post* pointed out, Chambliss manipulated the numbers by adding together the *suspected of re-engaging* and *confirmed of re-engaging* numbers and averaging the two to get 29 percent.

While Obama has promised to shutter Guantanamo and repatriate or transfer cleared detainees, he has been slow to follow through on his promises. The administration continues to blame congressional restrictions over the use of funds to transfer detainees.

Raha Wala, the senior counsel with Human Rights First's Law & Security Program, said that while progress on closing Guantanamo has been "disappointingly slow, there has been real progress nonetheless,



and the Obama administration can, with enough focus and commitment, close Guantanamo by the end of the President's second term."

More than half of the remaining 149 prisoners at Guantanamo are cleared for transfer. Obama's efforts likely became much more difficult after the bipartisan research arm of Congress, the Government Accountability

Office (GAO), concluded last month that the transfer of five Taliban Guantanamo detainees in exchange for Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, a prisoner of war, cost nearly \$1 million and was illegal.

House Republicans are responding to the GAO's report by scheduling hearings and vowing to further restrict the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo.



**60 British women now in Syria in all-female Islamic State brigade**

Source: <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Report-60-UK-women-fighting-in-Syria-with-all-female-Islamic-State-police-374761>



Veiled woman shoots gun (illustrative). (photo credit:REUTERS)

The British daily *The Independent* reported Monday that up to 60 British women had gone to Syria and joined Islamic State's al-Khansaa brigade, an all-female police unit that administers strict Shari'a law and punishes those who don't follow its extreme interpretation as imposed by the terror group.

One of the prominent leaders in the police force is a 20-yearold from Glasgow, Scotland, named Aqsa Mahmood, who has been in Syria since November 2013, according to the International Center for the Study of Radicalization. Her parents, Muzaffar and Khalida Mahmood, self-described moderate Muslims, said they were shocked by their daughter's turn for the extreme.

"Our daughter is brainwashed and deluded and helping those engaged in genocide," her parents said. Aqsa Mahmood reportedly married an Islamic State fighter after her arrival in Raqqa, Syria, the group's de facto capital.

**Reportedly, most of the women who fled to Syria to fight are between the ages of 18 and 24.**

A Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC) report said the women in al-Khansaa are paid a monthly salary equivalent to NIS 593.

An unnamed Islamic State official said the gender-specific police force was created to prevent mixing between men and women.



“We have established the brigade to raise awareness of our religion among women, and to punish women who do not abide by the law,” the official said.



TRAC said the group was also formed to expose men who dress up as women in order to avoid imprisonment.



Aussies are also in the game: Samra Kesinovic and Sabina Selimovic

Among the identities of other Britons who have fled to fight in Syria are 16-year-old twin sisters Zahra and Salma Halane from Manchester, and Sally Jones, a mother of two who converted to Islam and left her Kent home reportedly to marry a jihadi she had met online.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Joining the brigade might be a way to survive the rabbiid men of IS – at least for local women. BUT the main problem is with "white female terrorists" – how can we identify them when they will come back home? New troubles on sight!!!



**Chile official says subway blast apparently a 'terrorist act'**

By Jorge Poblete

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-chile-subway-bombing-20140908-story.html>



A police forensic expert arrives to the blast site at a subway station in Santiago, Chile, Monday, Sept. 8, 2014. (AP)



**A bomb exploded in a Santiago subway station Monday, injuring at least 10 people in what Chilean security authorities said appeared to be a "terrorist act."**

**It was at least the 30th blast in the Chilean capital this year in which authorities suspected anarchists and extremists.**

The explosion "has all the characteristics of a terrorist act that has been carried out to cause harm to innocent persons," said government spokesman Alvaro Elizalde.

Elizalde said authorities were preparing to reinstate anti-terrorism

laws enacted during the 1973-90 dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet that allow authorities more latitude in detaining and interrogating suspects.

As of late Monday, no individual or group had claimed responsibility for the bombing at the Escuela Militar station in the affluent Las Condes neighborhood. The explosion is the second attack on Santiago's subway system in less than two months.

**Police said the device consisted of a fire extinguisher filled with explosive powder, which was left in a metal trash container near vendor stalls in the subway.**

**A group calling itself the Revolutionary Cell Felice Orsini claimed responsibility for the July 13 subway bombing and others but it was unclear whether the group was suspected in Monday's attack.**

On Aug. 20, the U.S. State Department's Overseas Security Advisory Council issued a report expressing concern over the Chilean



bombings, attributing them to "an uptick in anarchist activity." The



report noted that recent targets have included police stations, ATMs, two churches and a nursery school.

“For the most part, these devices have not been intended to inflict casualties, and no deaths have resulted,” the report said. “However, anarchists may be widening the

a car in which the alleged bombers fled the scene had been identified. He said the suspects were described only as “two young people.”

Interior Minister Rodrigo Peñailillo said: “This is very serious. It requires the country to be strong and to impose the maximum possible



scope of acceptable targets and may wish to harm civilians.”

The State Department document also theorized the bombings could be connected to the “incarceration of two Chilean expatriates charged in Spain for terrorist activities and their affiliation with the anarchist group Mateo Morral Commando.”

As Chilean police helicopters flew over the city, Deputy Interior Minister Mahmud Aleuy told reporters at La Moneda presidential palace that

penalties. We will invoke the anti-terrorism law and we will apply all the resources necessary.”

**The explosion occurred three days before the anniversary of the September 1973 military coup that overthrew President Salvador Allende, although there was no established link between the bombings and the coup.**

**The bombing occurred within walking distance of a Chilean military academy.**

*Poblete is a special correspondent. Special correspondent Chris Kraul in Bogota, Colombia, contributed to this report.*

**NYC bridges need better protection against terrorists: Experts**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140909-nyc-bridges-need-better-protection-against-terrorists-experts>

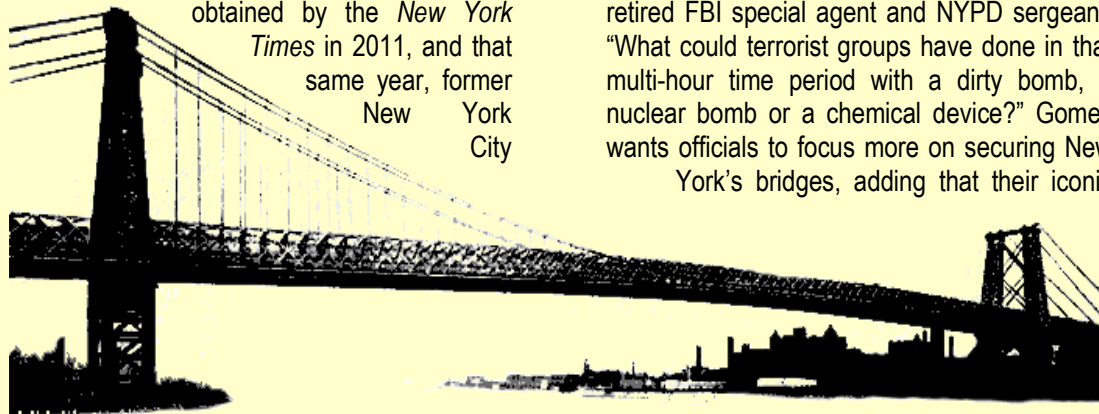
New York City’s bridges have long been the target of terrorist attacks. In 1993, for example, officials discovered a plot by Omar Abdel-Rahman to target the George Washington Bridge and other sites. Recent security breaches on both the Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan Bridge have heightened concerns as the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks near. Mayor Bill de Blasio has said that his office

would soon offer better ways to secure the Brooklyn Bridge.

**New York City’s bridges have longed been the target of terrorist attacks.** In 1993 officials discovered a plot by Omar Abdel-Rahman to target the George Washington Bridge and other sites. Al-Qaeda operative Lyman Faris was arrested in 2003 and



pleaded guilty to planning to cut the cables of the Brooklyn Bridge under the direction of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the planner of the 9/11 attacks. Al-Qaeda operative Abu Zubaydah listed bridges as possible terror targets in a classified Guantanamo Bay report obtained by the *New York Times* in 2011, and that same year, former New York City



to help locate the two in Germany. Then on 20 August, pro-Palestinian protesters hung a flag from the Manhattan Bridge, but police are not treating that incident as a security breach. "People climbed the bridge, and it took hours to accomplish that task," said Manny Gomez, a retired FBI special agent and NYPD sergeant. "What could terrorist groups have done in that multi-hour time period with a dirty bomb, a nuclear bomb or a chemical device?" Gomez wants officials to focus more on securing New York's bridges, adding that their iconic

mayor Rudy Giuliani told *Forbes* that officials had "plenty of intelligence" that Islamic terrorists were targeting the George Washington Bridge.

According to *USA Today*, recent breaches on both the Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan Bridge have heightened security as the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks near.

On 22 July, two German artists hoisted white flags atop two towers on the Brooklyn Bridge in recognition of the date of bridge designer John Roebling's death in 1869. The New York Police Department (NYPD) has since asked Interpol

status makes them prime targets for al-Qaeda. Mayor Bill de Blasio has said that his office would soon offer better ways to secure the Brooklyn Bridge. Nicholas Casale, former chief of counterterrorism for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, believes the city has been slow to properly secure many of the city's critical infrastructure from terrorism. "To me, it's incomprehensible that we're discussing this 13 years after 9/11," Casale said. "If we don't believe we are in the crosshairs of terrorists, then let the buildings reopen up, take away the street barriers."

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**DHS lost track of thousands of foreign students in U.S.**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140909-dhs-lost-track-of-thousands-of-foreign-students-in-u-s>

September 09 – **The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has lost tabs on more than 6,000 foreign students who had entered the United States on student visas which have since expired — effectively vanishing without a trace.**

As ABC News reports, the massive error was revealed by DHS officials who responded to ABC's inquiry as part of an investigation following complaints about the system of entry for foreign students.

"My greatest concern is that they could be doing anything," said Peter Edge, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement representative who is part of the investigation, "Some of them could be here to do us harm."

The lapse follows as the department struggles to continually keep track of the rapidly growing number of students coming to the country to study. **That number is now over one million each year, with roughly 58,000 students purportedly "overstaying" their allotted time.** The 6,000 come from this number, after agents determined them to be of "heightened concern."

"They just disappear," said Senator Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma). "They get the visas and they disappear."

One problem is that federal immigration officials continue to grant schools the power to accept overseas applications, even if the



schools have not been accredited by the state

More upsetting for many is that fact that the



and have little academic and administrative oversight. Of the 9,000 schools approved to accept these applications, there are eighty-six beauty schools, thirty-six massage schools, and nine schools that teach horseshoeing. These schools include MicroPower Career Institute, which, although licensed by New York, had much of its top administration indicted on charges of visa fraud.

**After the student arrives, it is up to these schools to track their whereabouts and report to the DHS.**

"We know we have a lot of non-accredited universities that are using this system to bring people in, collect money, and not educate them at all," said Coburn.

9/11 Commission specifically urged more oversight of the student visa program.

"It's been pointed out over and over and over again and the fact that nothing has been done about it yet...it's a very dangerous thing for all of us," said Thomas Kean, the 9/11 Commission co-chair.

The office for Homeland Security Investigations has taken steps to tackle the problem, including developing a new program where field agents visit school campuses, as well as an effort better to alert customs officials should a former visa student attempt to re-enter the country.

"Our work has only begun," said Edge, "We have a lot more work to do in this space."

**Saudi unveils 900km fence on Iraq border**

Source: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/saudi-unveils-900km-fence-along-iraq-border-201496154458789238.html>

**Saudi Arabia has unveiled a 900km multi-layered fence along its border with Iraq, as part of efforts to secure the kingdom's vast desert frontiers against infiltrators and smugglers,** state media SPA has said.

King Abdullah announced the launch of the first stage of the border security programme late on Friday, which stretches from Hafar al-Batin, near the Iraq-Kuwait border to the northeast town of Turaif close to Jordan.

**The project, which includes five layers of fencing equipped with watch towers, night-vision cameras and 50 radars is aimed at cutting the "number of infiltrators, drug, arms and cattle smugglers to zero",** SPA said.





The border programme, which was first discussed in 2006, came amid growing concern over neighbouring Iraq's deteriorating security situation.



In 2009, Riyadh signed a deal with European aerospace and defence contractors EADS to secure the Iraq border, but with increasing fears over infiltration by anti-government groups and al-Qaeda, the interior ministry expanded the scope to cover all the country's borders.

Saudi Arabia has also struggled to battle domestic terrorism since al-Qaeda first launched a string of attacks around a decade ago aimed at toppling the monarchy. Saturday's announcement comes amid the

advance of the Islamic State group who have seized large swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria.

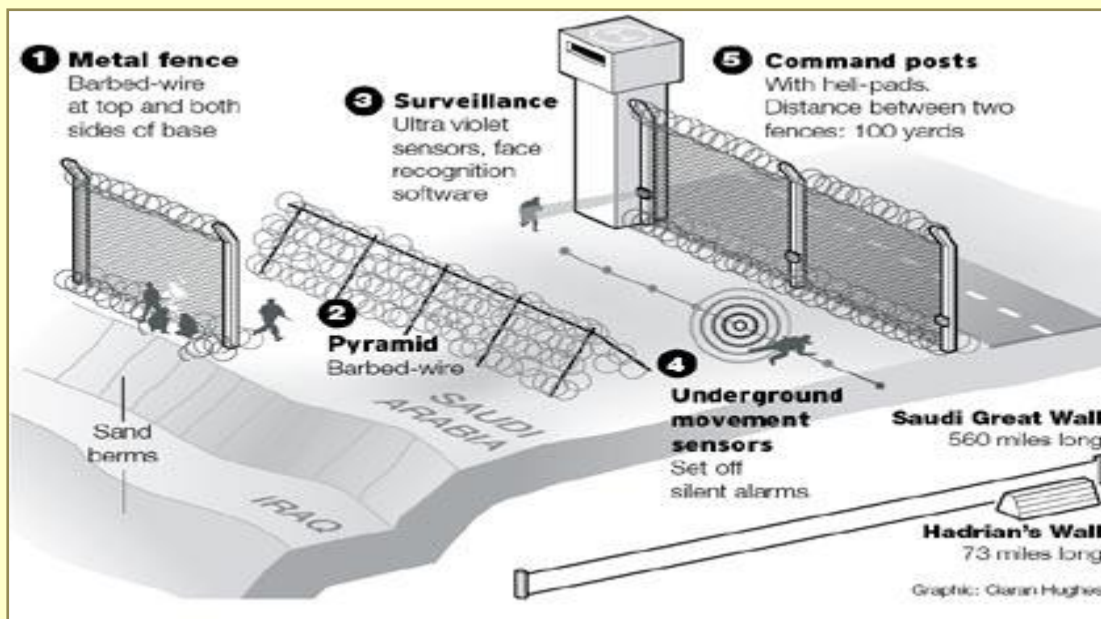
The kingdom has taken huge steps to protect its 800km border with Iraq, and in July sent 30,000 soldiers to its border with Iraq after Iraqi soldiers withdrew from the area.

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Iraq have been deeply strained since Riyadh accused the outgoing Iraqi prime



minister, Nouri al-Maliki, of creating the conditions for the Islamic State group to emerge by marginalising its Sunni Arab minority.





### No consensus over whether killing terrorist leaders weakens their organizations

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140911-no-consensus-over-whether-killing-terrorist-leaders-weakens-their-organizations>

U.S. counterterrorism officials anticipate that killing the leader of a terrorist organization may weaken the group and begin the degradation of its capabilities.



When the Pentagon confirmed that American airstrikes in Somalia last week had killed Ahmed Abdi Godane, the leader and co-founder of al-Qaeda-linked terror group al-Shabaab, Pentagon press secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby said in a statement that “removing Godane from the battlefield is a major symbolic and operational loss to al-Shabaab.” As the United States begins to target IS, including its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, officials must anticipate how decapitation will affect the group’s activities.

Targeted airstrikes or raids aimed at leaders of terrorist organizations are a main component of President Barack Obama’s counterterrorism strategy, but analysts are disagree whether decapitation weakens such organizations or lead them to be more radicalized and violent. The *Atlantic*

notes that the Kurdistan Workers’ Party scaled back its attacks in Turkey after the 1999 capture of its leader, Abdullah Ocalan, but also notes that Israel has killed several Hamas leaders — but the Palestinian group continues to regroup and further its attacks.



Succession struggles within South American and Mexican drug cartels following the killing of kingpins by law enforcement, show that decapitation can also increase a group's violence.

In 2009, Jenna Jordon, then-Ph.D. candidate at the University of Chicago, examined 298 cases of terrorist leaders being targeted between 1945 and 2002. She concluded that organizations that experienced a loss of leadership tend to remain active — as measured by their inclusion on the State Department's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations — longer than organizations that crumpled for other reasons.

"Organizations that have not had their leaders removed are more likely to fall apart than those that have undergone a loss of leadership," Jordon wrote.

In contrast, RAND Corporation's Patrick Johnston examined ninety insurgent campaigns from 1975 to 2003, and found that removing an insurgent group's leadership increases a government's chances of defeating the group.

Research from Northeastern University's Max Abrahms and the University of Michigan's Philip Potter found that killing a terror group's leadership may result in increased civilian casualties. "The leadership can actually have a restraining effect on lower-level members," Abrahms said. Al-Qaeda's leader Ayman al-Zawahiri has been quoted instructing his followers to "avoid collateral damage," and not join the Islamic State (IS). Citing his research, Abrahms speculates that decapitation could, over time, defeat a terrorist group since such organizations tend to lose popular support when they repeatedly inflict harm on civilians.

Audrey Kurth Cronin of George Mason University, in her book *How Terrorism Ends*, suggests that the structure of a terrorist organization determines whether decapitation will lead to its demise. "Those that have ended through decapitation have tended to be hierarchically structured, young, characterized by a cult of personality, and lacking a viable successor," she wrote.

For al-Shabaab, Godane was its strategic planner, but the group is reported to have been decentralized since an African Union offensive began in 2011, driving out militants from Mogadishu into smaller towns. Additionally, al-Shabaab has already experienced decapitation, said Kenneth Menkhous, a political-science professor at Davidson College who has studied the group, adding that since Godane's killing, al-Shabaab has already named a new leader.

### **Qaeda eyes Hyderabad as base, terrorist outfit plans a huge push to create an Islamist state in India**

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2014/09/qaeda-eyes-hyderabad-as-base-terrorist.html>

**Hyderabad is suspected to be the nerve centre of militant outfit Al Qaeda's plans to launch massive activities to declare an Islamist state in India. Close to 250 youth from the city have already been explained the long-drawn strategy to spread the message of jihad and five to six sleeper cells have been put in place to attract more youth from here, sources said.**

As per the counter-intelligence agencies' reports, a clutch of allied outfits including Indian Mujahideen (IM) and Lashkar e Taiba (LeT), have already begun operations in this direction. To combat this, the Union Home Ministry has all the counter-intelligence agencies including Intelligence Bureau (IB) and National Investigation Agency (NIA) forming an umbrella force.

At a meeting chaired by Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan in Raj Bhawan in Hyderabad on Friday, it was decided to deal with the situation

on a priority basis. Senior officials from the NIA, IB, Telangana DGP Anurag Sharma, Hyderabad police commissioner M. Mahender Reddy and intelligence chief A.R. Anuradha were present.

It was assessed that Hyderabad is the main target of terror outfits for their recruitment and training operations in the country. From there, they may coordinate activities in Delhi, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai.

Usually, secretarial staff would be allowed to attend such meetings, but the Raj Bhawan officials have ensured that no other officials, except top policemen were present at the meeting. The NIA officials briefed the meeting about the arrest of four youth from Hyderabad in Kolkata on Sunday and the details of their confession. All of them were in the age group of 19 to 20 years. Identities of the four youth have been kept secret, following a



suggestion from Telangana CM KCR, KCR had been approached by some legislators from the MIM asking that the names of the youth not be



disclosed to the media. These legislators had assured the police that the parents of the youth would fully cooperate with investigators. Narasimhan, a former IB director, told the police that the Centre had information that more youth from the city were in touch with the terror organisations, and urged them to track them down. Both the DGP and the police commissioner gave their presentations on the recent activities of the IM and the LeT. Police were alerted when the youth were first introduced to some social networks and then taken into closed door meetings in the city, where they were told that Islam was in great danger in India, especially after the victory of

PM Modi-led BJP in the elections. They were also briefed about Al Qaeda's plans to launch an ISIS-type campaign in India within three to five years.

Four youth, who are still being grilled by police officials from Central Crime Station (CCS) in the city, have told interrogators that they were on their way to Iraq, via Bangladesh.

A Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami operative was supposed to receive them on the Bangladesh borders. But acting on a tip off, the Kolkata police arrested the youth and alerted the local unit of the NIA.

After the Governor's meeting, the city police are now set to revisit all recent cases against the local youth and call some of them in for re-interrogation. "Unlike in the past, this time we are going to interrogate the youth in the presence of either elders or lawyers and that too only during daytime," a counter-intelligence official told.

Besides, an NIA team is going to examine all the details gathered by Subedar Naik Patan Kumar, the Junior Commissioned Officer in the artillery regiment, who was arrested in August in Hyderabad for alleged espionage. Since January, Patan Kumar had sent details of around 350 senior Army officials posted in Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore to a person who honey-trapped him.

NIA will be looking into the likelihood of any offensive from militant outfits against these officers. Multi-level militant outfits are at work to create large scale disturbances across India. "Hyderabad is their main focus area, from where they can fan out to the surrounding states of Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra," the official said.



**Al-Qaeda India branch's first attack ends in dismal failure as jihadists 'raid wrong ship'**

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/pakistan/11092387/Al-Qaeda-India-branches-first-attack-ends-in-dismal-failure-as-jihadists-raid-wrong-ship.html>

September 12 – **Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent**, the new group announced last week by Ayman al-Zawahiri to bolster his flagging fortunes, suffered a setback when three of its fighters were killed and seven arrested in its first ever terror attack.

**Heavily armed militants attacked a naval dock in Karachi's sea port on Saturday night and targeted what they believed was an American aircraft carrier, but instead found a Pakistan Navy frigate and were overwhelmed before they could cause any damage, investigators said.**



Three jihadis were killed in the attack, four were captured and another three arrested the following day on information from interrogations. Two Pakistan Navy guards were wounded in the fighting.



"It was a complete failure, they did not do any kind of damage, some were captured and we caught more, seven so far and may be more to come. They were well-equipped and came with the intention of taking a ship into their custody but they were caught in the initial stages," a senior source close to the investigation told the Telegraph.

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, the militant group unveiled by Zawahiri last week to demonstrate his clout despite the rise of Islamic State (Isil), claimed responsibility for the attack on Thursday and said former Pakistan Navy men had carried it out.

"The Naval officers who were martyred on Saturday in the attack on Karachi were al-Qaeda members. They were trying to attack American marines and their cronies", the group said in a statement.

It added that militants had successfully seized an American vessel but were

thwarted by Pakistan Navy troops. "The Pakistani military men who died defending enemies of the Muslim nation...are cursed with hell", it added.

Investigators denied that the all the attackers had belonged to the Pakistani Navy and said only one militant, who was killed in the fighting, was a former naval rating.

They also said they were sceptical over whether al-Qaeda had any involvement in the attack and suspected it was claiming credit for another group's work. "If they did it why would they wait until Thursday to claim it?" said one source.

**The raid is the second attack on the Pakistan Navy's Karachi base in the last three years.** In 2011 up to 20 Taliban militants attacked the port, killing 11 naval troops and a paramilitary soldier in a 12-hour siege. Two patrol planes given to Pakistan by the United States were destroyed in the attack.

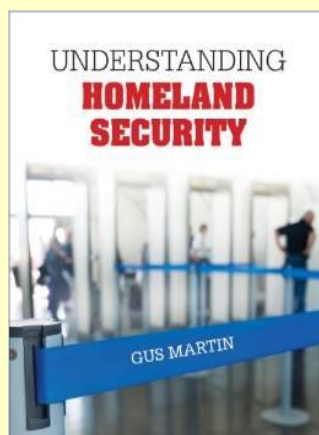
**Gus Martin's New Book: 'Understanding Homeland Security'**

By Paul Browning

Source: <http://www.csudhnews.com/2014/09/gus-martin-2/#sthash.vAKRTfpq.dpuf>

Offering valuable insight into the complexities of protecting the nation from both external and internal threats, C. Augustus (Gus) Martin's textbook *Understanding Homeland Security* (Sage Publishing, June 2014) provides students and professionals a straightforward, modern-era exploration of this dynamic topic.

With Martin's ease-of-navigation writing style and knowledge in



the field, his book provides "fundamental expertise" and stimulates critical thinking while delving extensively into emergency management, terrorism, criminal intelligence, armed conflict, social environments and other areas.

Martin began teaching at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) in 2001 as an assistant professor. He moved up the faculty ranks before



joining the administration where he first served as associate vice president of Faculty Affairs for seven years. He currently teaches the course Terrorism and Extremism while serving (since January 2014) as associate vice president for Human Resources Management. Unlike his first six textbooks that focused on international terrorism, his latest tackles—in a broad sense—how the US government responds, or “decides to respond,” to domestic security.

“Homeland security is a relatively new concept in the U.S. Some countries in Europe have had these types of agencies going back a couple generations,” said Martin. “Our approach to terrorism before 9/11 was law enforcement. We now have a more national security environment in this nation. The general structure is we first try to predict when terrorism will happen, then try to prevent it, and then, if something does happen, we shift focus to how we respond. Every law enforcement agency in the country, down to county sheriffs, has a homeland security component to it. It’s part of our culture.”

Government information is public record and is available in reports from the U.S. Senate, intelligence agencies and other sources, and Martin taps those resources often. But he more frequently gathers information from reputable human rights organizations, such as Doctors Without Borders and groups that work in refugee camps. Their data can be more extensive due to the security issues related to the work they do, according to Martin.

“Sometimes these people find themselves in danger. They often work in war-like conditions so their organizations put out a lot of detailed information,” he said. “These individuals are soft targets and the terrorists look for them. Books like *Understanding Homeland Security* would be a good resource for doctors and others who put their lives on the line to help others.”

Martin is, however, concerned about how the U.S. government has thrown the “kitchen sink” into homeland security, including natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes. “Terrorism, that’s what we need to keep our focus on. If we get too broad or spread out too thin we could lose some of our edge when it

comes to responding to real terrorist situations,” he said.

There are also civil liberty concerns to consider when it comes to the homeland security, according to Martin.

“We have a lot of watchdogs paying attention to what the government is doing in terms of homeland security and counterterrorism. With the kinds of surveillance security that is now available to governments, they need to be monitored,” he said. “Generally people accept the current security environment because they know the bad guys are out there—they walk among us. So we accept this, but we have to be vigilant. We have to be very careful how we apply homeland security.”



C. Augustus (Gus) Martin

**Head of the Class**

Martin teaches the class Terrorism and Extremism in the Criminal Justice Administration division in CSUDH’s College of Business Administration and Public Policy. He also has taught terrorism at the University of Pittsburgh.

“When I teach my terrorism course I essentially teach the students everything there is to know on the subject,” Martin explained. “We look at history, causes, and how to define terrorism, as well as the different types; religious, ideological, Marxist, fascist, and international terrorism. We also focus on counter terrorism in the United States and our ‘homegrown’ extremists. So there’s a whole lot to study before jumping into homeland security.”

Martin uses *Understanding Homeland Security* to guide his course. He leads his students in some “fascinating” directions and unique class projects, which has made a few a “bit nervous” when they were on particular websites.

“My students write papers and can earn extra credit that involves different types of research, like on the Internet, and there’s a lot out there on the web,” he said. “Terrorists and extremists have their own websites and they use social media just like anyone else. Some non-violent extremists just push their ideologies. My students find everything you can think of online, such as how to make weapons and bombs, and where to place them.”

Martin believes most Americans have adjusted well to the idea of homeland security, but he does hear a lot of mislabeling of



individuals and groups as terrorists. With his new textbook, he provides a “reality check” for readers. He wants his students and other readers to really understand who the terrorists are and to “get past the conspiracy theories and fallacies” about terrorism and national security.

“People use the word ‘terrorist’ much too openly. Not everything is terrorist. I’ve asked students in my class, ‘Are gang members terrorists?’ and some say ‘Yes!’ But they’re not. There has to be a political motivation. Gangs are just into it for the money,” he said. “I think it’s important for everyone to know what to look

for or be trained to some degree, even in the private sector.”

Martin’s course enrolls a diverse group of students, from law enforcement officers and criminology students, to sociology majors and seasoned combat veterans.

“It’s a good mix. The veterans know this stuff. They’ve been trained in it and they’ve seen it. Sometimes they talk to me about what they know and sometimes they don’t,” he said. “Law enforcement officers and those who want to go into that field know they’re going to have to deal with homeland security and terrorism. So that’s why they’re in my class.”

**Canadians are fighting for ISIS, but Canada has no terrorism alert system**

Source: <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/canada-politics/should-canada-have-a-terrorism-threat-alert-system-143339925.html>



Australia became the latest country to increase its terrorism alert level on Friday in light of the emergence of Islamic extremists in the Middle East.

Last week, the U.K. did the same.

Both countries — citing reports of their own

If you’re waiting on Canada to do the same, don’t bother.

**While Canada may face the same risks as its commonwealth brethren, we don’t even have a public ranking system.**

The UK and Australia terror threat systems mirror the United States’ color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System — introduced by the Bush administration in 2002 — which ranged from green (a low risk of terrorist attacks) to red (a severe risk of terrorist attacks). Since 2011, the U.S. has transitioned to the National Terrorism Advisory System, which provides more timely and targeted information.

The NTAS “recognizes that Americans all share responsibility for the nation’s security, and should always be aware of the heightened risk of terrorist attacks in the United States and what they should do,” notes the NTAS website.

Canada has no similar mechanism for public dissemination.

According to Ministry of Public Safety, the Government of Canada has “a system of measures in place, including: travel advisories, active contact



citizens fighting for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or ISIS) and threats against the west — raised their public threat rankings to their second highest levels indicating a terrorist risk is ‘likely.’



between transportation security officials and transportation providers, a Government Operations Centre that monitors all hazards, and close cooperation between security and police agencies in response to an evolving threat situation.”

Wesley Wark, a national security, intelligence and terrorism expert at the University of Ottawa says that while Canada has never had a threat alert system, there was some debate about it after the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

“The Canadian decision not to have a terror threat warning system was based on their reading of the American system and a feeling on the part of government officials that it was of very little value, subject to vagaries and even political abuse (messaging), and might mislead the public as much as inform it,” Wark told *Yahoo Canada News*.

Canada’s law enforcement have become more vigilant over the past several months in light of the ISIS threats but says he would urge the federal government to adopt a “concrete” threat alert system.

“Part of the political calculation [of an alert system] is that you’re trying to increase the awareness of and ask for people’s help,” Zekulin told *Yahoo Canada News*.

“The sets of eyes and ears that the general population has — as opposed to say intelligence or law enforcement — increases exponentially. So essentially, it’s not necessarily so much about the fact that we really believe something is going to happen, it’s just that sort of reminder. It’s that little alarm that goes off that basically says ‘hey everybody, it’s time to once again... be a little more in touch with what’s going on and



Damian Clairmont (right), 22, left Canada to fight for ISIS. He was killed in battle.

“Perhaps there was also some nervousness around the idea of a threat warning system that might impact on the Canadian societal fabric and produce unnecessary tensions in our multicultural system.”

Wark adds that the British experience has been different, “largely on the basis of a better public understanding of the reality of terrorist threats and because of long experience with alarms over [Irish Republican Army] terrorism.”

Michael Zekulin, a terrorism expert at the University of Calgary has no doubt that

be vigilant and report these types of things.”

With regard to the ISIS threats, Canadian officials should have similar concerns as the British and Australian authorities.

The government’s 2014 Public Report on the Terrorist Threat to Canada, released last month, says 130 Canadians have travelled abroad to support terrorism-related activities with at least 30 believed to be fighting in Syria. Moreover, a 2013 Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) report reminded officials that Canada isn’t immune from other terrorist threats.





"In Canada, terrorism emanating from Al-Qaeda-inspired extremism remains a serious threat," notes the comprehensive state of terrorism in Canada study.

"Despite recent successful operations targeting Al-Qaeda Core, the Service continues to see

support for AQ causes in Canada. Of particular significance is the above-mentioned investigation into an alleged Al-Qaeda-linked plot to attack a train in Southern Ontario, which led to the arrest of two individuals in April 2013."

**Israel's Counter-Terrorism Unit Warns Of Terror Attacks In Western Europe, Africa**

Source: <http://jpupdates.com/2014/09/15/israels-counter-terrorism-unit-warns-terror-attacks-western-europe-africa/>

September 15 – Israel's National Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Bureau released a biannual travel advisory on Monday, ahead of the High Holy Days, warning that Jews and Israelis may become targets of Islamic State terror attacks in Western Europe.

"During this period, the potential threat has grown," the Counter-Terrorism Bureau warned.

"There are concerns about additional attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets around the world, with an emphasis on Western Europe, by global jihadi elements (including the Islamic State), particularly by veterans of Syria and Iraq who return to their countries," the Bureau stated.

At the same time, the threat remains from attack by Iran or Hezbollah against Israeli and Jewish targets across the world, with an emphasis on "soft" targets, including tourists and Jewish symbols such as community leaders or Chabad Houses.

A warning against traveling to Sinai is also still in place, due to terror activity by Ansar Bait al-Maqdis. The Counter-Terrorism unit also advised Israelis to avoid non-essential trips to Turkey, as well as to Africa, Morocco, and a concrete threat of attacks in southern Thailand.

"The travel warnings are based on solid and credible information that reflects a concrete threat, based on intelligence," the counter terrorism unit said.

In total, it placed 41 travel advisories of varying severity on countries and regions around the world.

**Nazis, Islamists, and the Making of the Modern Middle East.**

By Barry Rubin and Wolfgang G. Schwanitz

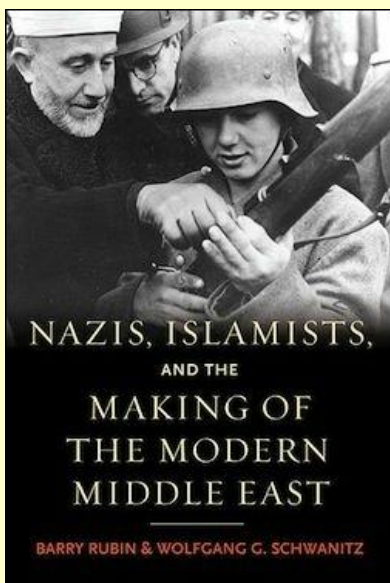
New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014. 340 pp.

Reviewed by Lionel Gossman

Princeton University

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/4814/nazis-islamists-and-the-making-of-the-modern>

With Islamist groups taking advantage of uprisings across the Middle East, notably in Egypt, where the Muslim Brotherhood succeeded for a time in gaining power and is still widely viewed as the democratically elected government of Egypt, the publication of this richly researched book, a joint production of two leading Middle East scholars, could not be timelier. While many analysts ascribe the so-called "Arab Spring" to a yearning for democracy,



Rubin and Schwanitz remind us of a deep and abiding connection between radical Islamism and imperial, then later, Nazi Germany. It was Kaiser Wilhelm II who first set the template in his cynical World War I strategy of fomenting jihad among Muslim subjects in British, French, and Russian territories in the Near East and North Africa. One side-effect of this strategy was German complicity in the Armenian massacres, which could well have served as a model for Hitler's treatment of the Jews.



Most of the book is devoted to demonstrating the close collaboration between National Socialism and Islamism, based on a common deployment of racism, nationalism, religious bigotry, and intolerance. Begun before World War II, this collaboration continued for decades after the Nazi defeat with the help of numerous war criminals who found refuge in Arab lands. The key figure in this dark saga was the British-installed Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin Husseini, an eager associate of Hitler, and just as viciously anti-Semitic.

The authors contend that Husseini was himself partly responsible for the Holocaust. It was almost immediately after his meeting with Hitler on November 28, 1941, at which time the Palestinian leader demanded and received the cessation of all Jewish emigration to Palestine in exchange for Muslim support for the Axis, that Hitler convoked the Wannsee Conference. Having closed the door on the last possible escape route for the Jews, genocide became the "final solution."

The authors' essential thesis is that, without Husseini's influence, more moderate Arab voices might have prevailed over radicalism, and "there might have been other options" to

war in 1948: "Once al-Husaini was allowed to re-establish himself as unchallengeable leader of the Palestinian Arabs, this ensured that no compromise or two-state solution would be considered, while making certain that Arab leaders would be intimidated and driven to war. Al-Husaini's and the radical legacy have continued to dominate the Palestinian national and the Islamist global movement down to the present day."

The failure of Husseini's plan to expunge all Jews from Palestine led him to adapt the hitherto rejected notion of partition to his own ends. The two-stage strategy—essentially gaining a foothold in the West Bank and Gaza and using this land as a base for destroying Israel—was crafted by Husseini and passed along to his protégé Yasser Arafat.

Rubin and Schwanitz offer a compelling and somber insight into Islamism that must be taken into account when reflecting on the problems of the Middle East today, not least by thoughtful and open-minded Muslims. Sadly, Rubin did not see the finished product of collaboration with Schwanitz. He died just as their book was coming off the presses.

**What Do You Buy the Children of the Terrorist Who Tried to Kill Your Wife? A Memoir.**

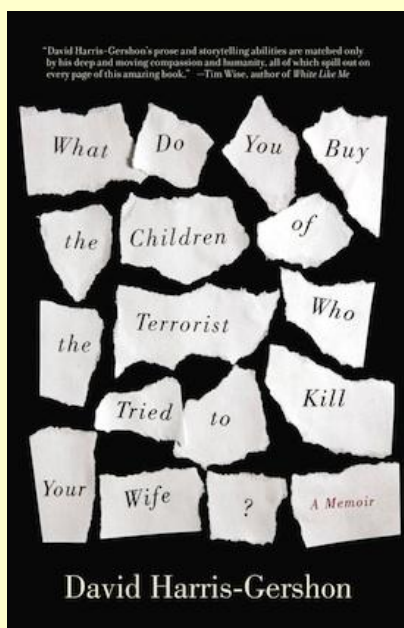
By David Harris-Gershon

Oneworld Publications, 2013. 288 pp.

Reviewed by Oren Kessler

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/4803/what-do-you-buy-the-children-of-the-terrorist-who>

Death's abrupt intrusion into life is the focus of Harris-Gershon's elaborately titled 2013 debut, *What Do You Buy the Children of the Terrorist Who Tried to Kill Your Wife?* In 2002, the author (who now lives in Pittsburgh) moved to Jerusalem with Jamie, his wife of three years, for graduate studies. While Jamie lunched with friends in the Hebrew University cafeteria, a bomb went off, slicing open her torso and leaving her with metal lodged in her organs. Two friends with whom she had been



sitting were killed.

The author's wife experienced a painful—but thankfully, complete—recovery, and the couple returned to the quiet of suburban America. The author then reads in the news that the perpetrator—an East Jerusalemite acting on behalf of Hamas—has expressed regret at the loss of life he caused. Still traumatized by the attack, Harris-Gershon decides to return to Israel to track down the bomber—not out of revenge, he writes, but out of desperation to understand what



happened. That quest forms the basis of the book.

The book is a deeply personal memoir of the author himself. Regrettably, it is too personal. One cannot but sympathize with someone forced to watch a loved one suffer who has been literally ripped apart in an act of terror. And yet throughout this book, the victim—Harris-Gershon's wife—makes only brief appearances, a bit player in her husband's drama. The reader gets intermittent updates on her progress, interspersed between seemingly unending expositions on everything the author did, saw, thought and said, no matter how banal.

In the postscript, he offers an explanation for why he felt it was appropriate for him to write a book. Even then, the explanation is self-indulgent: "This book, at its core, wasn't about the bombing. It was about the personal attempt to overcome the psychological horrors that haunted me after the attack," he writes, magnanimously offering gratitude to "my wife, Jamie, who I want to thank for her uncommon support and strength throughout this entire process—a process which has not been easy for either of us."

The excessive self-regard is even more irritating because accompanied by factual inaccuracies. The author cites the biblical story of Cain and Abel, for example, to illustrate how Jerusalem's history has been bloodstained from the very beginning—never mind that the Bible says the siblings lived outside the Garden of Eden, in Babylonia (the accompanying endnote renders the relevant Hebrew text backwards, from left to right).

He refers to an Arab village near Hebrew University named "Issiva" (it is Issawiya) and to the Tayelet promenade as being in "north Jerusalem" although it is actually in the city's southern outskirts. At a toy store, he recalls seeing "semi-automatic squirt guns sporting Hebrew stickers that read *B'chaniah*. On sale." This is likely intended as a telling anecdote on the violence suffusing Israeli society, but as elsewhere in this account, the author has gotten it wrong. *B'chaniah* means "in parking." Regrettably, the author is not particularly adroit with the English language either. Having returned stateside, he re-discovers the joys of writing, a process he describes as "shoving the funnel down my throat and pouring in everything that would slide down, excited to

find out what would come back up to find life on the page."

It is stunning that no editor at Oneworld—a legitimate publisher with some serious Mideast offerings—thought to unmix that metaphor or to suggest a more appealing image of the writing process than one of force-feeding and regurgitation, followed by an inspection of the spewed-up cud.

Worse still, the author's revisionist account of history misleads. In his telling of the second *intifada*, Palestinian Authority (PA) president Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah faction strives—with considerable success—to convince the Islamists of Hamas to end terrorism "not solely out of a concern for Israeli civilians" but because it harms the Palestinian case for independence. But then, in 2002, Israel assassinates Hamas terror chief Salah Shehade, and in the author's words, "revenge was reclaimed" and "pacifism was dead."

That the words "pacifism" and "Hamas" should appear in remote proximity stretches credulity. But more than that, absent from this narrative is the lead role Fatah's own al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades played attacking hundreds of innocent Israelis. Absent too is the incessant terrorist glorification in the PA's own media and schools—whether the victims are soldiers or civilians like Harris-Gershon's wife—which continues undiminished today.

In an apparent nod to skeptics, the writer concedes that there indeed may be a "murderous element woven into the outer fringes" of the Palestinians' social fabric. The trope of "fringe" support for terrorism in the Arab and Muslim worlds is by now familiar, generally uttered in the same breath as assurances that poverty leads to extremism—and similarly undermined by the available evidence.

A cursory familiarity with Palestinian society and its discourse reveals the argument to be false: Palestinian television, newspapers, public figures—whether Fatah or Hamas—and even music celebrate violence with remarkable consistency. In July 2014, a massive Pew survey of the world's Muslims asked whether suicide bombings against civilians are permissible in defense of Islam. Even when narrowed to a religious question, 46 percent of Palestinians said it was—higher than any other Muslim people worldwide, save



for Bangladesh.<sup>[1]</sup> "Outer fringes" these are not.

It is, therefore, unsurprising that the bomber, despite his supposed remorse, at no point agrees to meet with Harris-Gershon. Still, the author is determined not to let reality interfere with the narrative arc—he arranges a meeting with the bomber's family.

After fretting about whether and what to bring the killer's children—and astoundingly, about what to wear—he travels to their home in the East Jerusalem village of Silwan. Relatives reaffirm the bomber's regret over the attack (but fail to explain his refusal to meet), and Harris-Gershon drops in some bromides about peace. He does not reveal how long the meeting lasts, but from the short, 5-page description it gets, the reader is left to presume its duration was roughly that of a few cups of tea.

For Harris-Gershon, the objective has been met. "These people were now my friends,"

he concludes, jaw-droppingly. "Reconciliation. It had happened," he adds, blithely ignoring the bomber's refusal to meet him. "And in happening, had impressed upon me the force of restorative dialogue."

The "About the Author" section describes him as a "popular online blogger" for *Tikkun* and *Daily Kos*—the latter, it helpfully adds, is "the most widely read progressive politics website globally." Indeed, this book is useful primarily as a warning against the infinitely adjustable moral compass of progressivism run amok and of the solipsistic illusion that one's own experience holds in it an epic human drama in miniature. Finally, it epitomizes the lamentable modern habit of enlisting one's tormentors in the search for "inner peace."

What do you bring the children of the terrorist who tried to kill your wife? **The answer is tantamount to the value of this book: Nothing.**

*Oren Kessler is a Middle East research fellow for the Henry Jackson Society, a London-based think tank. He was formerly Middle East affairs correspondent for The Jerusalem Post and a staff writer for Haaretz, English edition.*

**Wondering 'what if' as troops head back to Middle East**

By Leonard Pitts

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/columnists/2014/09/14/wondering-troops-head-back-middle-east/15522999/>

**If.**

Two letters long, it is arguably the most fruitless word in the English language, an evocation of paths not taken, possibilities foreclosed, regrets stacked high — and it lies like a pall of smoke over President Obama's Wednesday-night announcement that this country is returning to war, albeit with air strikes only, in a place we just left behind in 2011 after spending almost nine years, over a trillion dollars and 4,425 lives.

**If.**

As in, if President Bush had concentrated on toppling the Taliban in Afghanistan, which harbored the authors of the terrorist strike we suffered 13 years ago last week, if he had not rushed to judgment, convincing himself Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was behind the attack, if his administration had not used suspect intelligence to claim Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, if we

had not bought into the fantasy that we could impose a Jeffersonian democracy on another nation and have them thank us for it, if we had not destabilized the region, if we had never kicked this hornet's nest, would we now find ourselves obliged to confront the criminal gang that calls itself the Islamic State?

It's doubtful, to say the least.

And one imagines that as he wrestled with Wednesday's decision, this president who came to office vowing to end the Iraq War felt not unlike Michael Corleone in *Godfather Part III*: "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in!"

Granted, Obama's predicament is hardly unique. Lincoln had to fight



the war Buchanan's dithering made inevitable. Roosevelt had to fix the economy whose collapse Hoover had placidly watched. Washington was probably the last president who didn't have to clean up his predecessor's mess.

So once more unto the breach! What other choice do we have? With stunning speed that has alarmed the world, the Islamic State has seized large swaths of Iraq and its civil war-racked neighbor, Syria, marching toward its stated goal of establishing a caliphate. In the process, it has committed acts of genocide and atrocity, including the beheading of two brave American journalists. We can hardly stand by and do nothing. In opting for air strikes, the president has probably chosen the least bad from a palette of unattractive options.

Yet as we go again to war, there is one last "if" we ought to heed, for it concerns not the failings of a president but those of the people. So many of us bought into the Bush administration's false conflation of Iraq and the Sept. 11 attacks, even when it became clear there was no connection. And so many of us echoed the administration's shrug of indifference when the weapons of mass

destruction turned out to be mirages of mass delusion.

Shorn of his two major rationales for going to war, you may recall, Bush said that, even knowing what he now knew, he still would have invaded Iraq. And the American people echoed this bizarre nonchalance, 56 percent telling Gallup in 2003 that they supported the war whether weapons were found or not. Thus, we enabled a long and unnecessary war.

Had we the people not been so morally craven, we might have saved much treasure and blood. Had we had not been so panicked and credulous; America might not have created the vacuum into which this new threat now rushes.

The lesson has resonance not simply for the past, which is unalterable, but also for the future, which is unwritten. As a free people, it is our job to apply a brake, when necessary, to the excesses — particularly the military excesses — of our government. We owe that to the men and women who fly into harm's way on our behalf, because we ought to be able to justify their sacrifice with more than fantasy, delusion, mirage and regret.

And, because if is about the most useless word there is.

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## Of the 17,891 Deaths from Terrorism Last Year, 19 Were American. Let Iraqis Fight ISIS.

By H. A. Goodman

Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/h-a-goodman/of-the-17891-deaths-from\\_b\\_5818082.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/h-a-goodman/of-the-17891-deaths-from_b_5818082.html)

The reality of the war against terrorism is that since 2001, the U.S. has weakened groups like Al-Qaeda, but "hasn't wiped any out" according to a recent Washington Post article. Retired Air Force General Charles F. Wald is quoted as saying, "We're not going to see an end to this in our lifetime...there isn't going to be any time where we all of a sudden can declare victory." Therefore, it's important to evaluate what our country has sacrificed thus far, especially if there will never be a time we can declare victory. If we can't ever truly claim that we've won, and this is indeed a never-ending conflict, then what have the costs been thus far? **After 4,486 U.S. soldiers died in Iraq and 2,344 U.S. soldiers died in Afghanistan, 1 million U.S. soldiers wounded in both wars, and a potential cost of up to \$6 trillion, the last thing American soldiers and their families need is another war.** Even after two long wars

in Iraq and Afghanistan, ISIS is now a major dilemma in Iraq, the Taliban still exists, and a number of other terrorist groups in the world continue to pose threats to global security. So, it's safe to say that further evaluation is needed pertaining to American interests in waging a third war (Gulf War, Iraqi Freedom, and now the war against ISIS) in Iraq. Also, some analysis on the true threat posed by terrorism to America is also long overdue. Terrorism is a serious issue and 9/11 affected everyone in the country, but a sober examination of how many Americans are affected by this threat is needed in order to justify never-ending wars in the Middle East and around the globe.

**Even one American death is too much and a tragedy, however it is important to look at how global terrorism has affected Americans in recent years, and whether or**



**not further wars are needed to combat this threat.** According to the State Department, here are the number of Americans (excluding the Boston Marathon bombing that killed 3 Americans and injured 264 others) overseas killed, injured or kidnapped, for the past five years:

**2013**

U.S. citizens overseas killed as a result of incidents of terrorism: 16  
 U.S. citizens overseas injured as a result of incidents of terrorism: 7  
 U.S. citizens overseas kidnapped as a result of incidents of terrorism: 12

**2012**

U.S. citizens worldwide killed as a result of incidents of terrorism: 10  
 U.S. citizens worldwide injured as a result of incidents of terrorism: 2  
 U.S. citizens worldwide kidnapped as a result of incidents of terrorism: 3

**2011**

U.S. citizens worldwide killed as a result of incidents of terrorism: 17  
 U.S. citizens worldwide injured as a result of incidents of terrorism: 14  
 U.S. citizens worldwide kidnapped as a result of incidents of terrorism: 3

**2010**

U.S. citizens worldwide killed as a result of incidents of terrorism: 15  
 U.S. citizens worldwide injured as a result of incidents of terrorism: 9  
 U.S. citizens worldwide kidnapped as a result of incidents of terrorism: 0

**2009**

U.S. citizens worldwide killed as a result of incidents of terrorism: 9  
 U.S. citizens worldwide injured as a result of incidents of terrorism: 14  
 U.S. citizens worldwide kidnapped as a result of incidents of terrorism: 4

The majority of the deaths, kidnappings, and injured listed above are American citizens who were living in Iraq, Afghanistan, or other danger zones in the world.

As stated, even one American death is too much, and even one journalist murdered is a tragedy, but compare the global threat of terrorism and its danger to Americans for the past five years to the aggregate death toll of human beings in other countries. **These numbers, compiled by the U.S. Department**

**of State, represent the total number of people who died from terrorism, in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan and regions like Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and parts of Asia:**

**2013**

In 2013, a total of 9,707 terrorist attacks occurred worldwide, resulting in more than 17,800 deaths and more than 32,500 injuries. In addition, more than 2,990 people were kidnapped or taken hostage...

The ten countries that experienced the most terrorist attacks in 2013 are the same as those that experienced the most terrorist attacks in 2012. The ranking in terms of total attacks increased for Iraq, the Philippines, and Syria, decreased for Pakistan, Nigeria, Yemen, and Somalia, and remained the same for Afghanistan, India, and Thailand.

**2012**

In 2012, a total of 6,771 terrorist attacks occurred worldwide, resulting in more than 11,000 deaths and more than 21,600 injuries. In addition, more than 1,280 people were kidnapped or taken hostage.

**2011**

Over 10,000 terrorist attacks occurred in 2011, affecting nearly 45,000 victims in 70 countries and resulting in over 12,500 deaths.

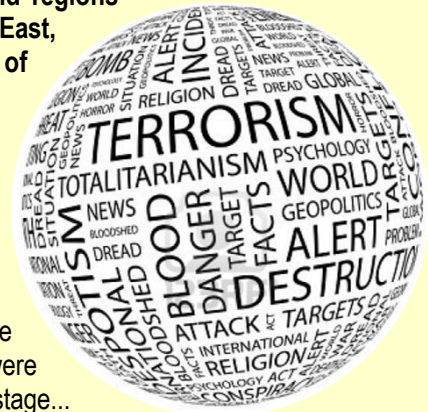
**2010**

Over 11,500 terrorist attacks occurred in 72 countries in 2010, resulting in approximately 50,000 victims, including almost 13,200 deaths.

**2009**

**Approximately 11,000 terrorist attacks occurred in 83 countries during 2009, resulting in over 58,000 victims, including nearly 15,000 fatalities.**

Looking at the tens of thousands of deaths each year that affect citizens in other countries (primarily Iraq and Afghanistan), it's obvious that ending terrorism forever is of great concern to other countries. It is of course one of our biggest concerns, but continuing never-ending wars with sectarian quagmires in countries thousands of miles away serves the terrorists, not America. "Fighting them over there" is what the terrorists want since they can't invade America's shores through a navy or amphibious invasion;



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they need us to come to them. Also, all our efforts didn't stop two terrorists in the Boston Marathon Bombing. With everything done since 9/11, just two men managed to create enough havoc to make everyone in the nation feel threatened, while *all* of the 17,891 deaths from terrorism occurred overseas. **It's interesting to note that the Columbine, or Virginia Tech, and countless other shooting sprees don't have the same affect on Americans.**

Instead of playing into the hands of ISIS, we should pursue a strategy that calls for the Iraqis, Kurds, and the natural enemies of ISIS to defeat them; not another try at a failed war we just ended several years ago. According to Britain's MI5, the most notorious terror groups are the following:

**The most significant groups are;**

**Yemen:** Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

**Syria:** Al Nusrah Front (ANF)

**North Africa (Sahel):** Al Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

**West Africa:** Boko Haram and Ansaru

**East Africa (Somalia):** Al Shabaab

**Iraq:** Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or Al Qaida in Iraq (AQI)

Therefore, does the war on terror involve defeating other groups aside from ISIS? Will American soldiers be in Nigeria to destroy Boko Haram, or Somalia once again to fight Al Shahaab, or Syria, or the Philippenes to defeat Abu Sayyaf? **There are over 40 high profile terrorist groups in the world according to The National Counterterrorism Center, so will America be fighting each and every one of them forever? Will our great grandchildren be in Yemen in 2048, fighting the great grandchildren of the surviving terrorists?**

**Do I want ISIS defeated? Absolutely, but by Iraqis, not by U.S. soldiers.** So why are we going to such insane lengths to destroy ISIS, even after Al-Qaeda's leadership is mostly

destroyed and even though we've spent over a decade and can't seem to truly end any of them? I don't believe in conspiracy theories, I believe in the immense and inevitable fallibility of leaders in power, the inability of policy makers to make the right decisions, the ability of bureaucracies to miss the big picture while focusing on the tiny details, and the fear of the masses elicited by two beheading videos. We weaken our country by trying to kill an idea, or eradicate a word called "terror." A madman in Connecticut can murder 20 children and 26 total lives and our country won't equate the tragedy with terrorism. Gangs, maniac shooters, drunk driving, and other issues in our country kill tens of thousands every year, but we gloss them over as simply part of life. However, it takes two beheadings, although horrific and infuriating for me and millions of Americans, to simply ignore the lessons of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam and head right back into the hornet's nest.

**Over 100,000 deaths are attributed to terrorism worldwide in other countries against other citizens in the past five years, while less than 60 of those deaths**

**are American, so perhaps we're waging a war on terror to protect citizens of other countries?** Terrorism and the ideology that fuels it can't be destroyed by American military interventions and shouldn't

be the reason we send our soldiers to counterinsurgency conflicts (with sectarian violence and ever changing political turmoil) that hurt our nation immeasurably. We owe our soldiers and veterans better, especially since they do the fighting and there's still a VA crisis and an ongoing war in Afghanistan. President Obama's strategy against ISIS is as short-sighted as Bush's was in getting us into Iraq in the first place.



*H. A. Goodman is author and journalist published in Salon.com, the Jerusalem Post, Chicago Tribune, The Hill's Congress Blog, and other publications.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This would have been a realistic and honest article if it included a paragraph on whom to blame for IS rise in Iraq (and in Afghanistan the day after US troop will depart this country).



## The Middle East 'Black Revolution'

By Mark Burr

Source: [http://acdemocracy.org/the-middle-east-black-revolution/?utm\\_source=Middle+Eastern+%27Black+Revolution%27&utm\\_campaign=The+Middle+East+%27Black+Revolution%27&utm\\_medium=email](http://acdemocracy.org/the-middle-east-black-revolution/?utm_source=Middle+Eastern+%27Black+Revolution%27&utm_campaign=The+Middle+East+%27Black+Revolution%27&utm_medium=email)



2010, liberals in many Middle Eastern countries wanted a "Color Revolution," like other countries had in the previous decade. **Yet, in the Fall of 2014, the dominant color that splashes all over is black. The black color of the growing jihadist movement, the ISIL.**

But in the Fall of 2010, Iraqis were proud of their Purple Revolution, captured by the raised purple finger of a free people—men and women of every sect and faith—voting for their constitutionally elected government.

In the Fall of 2010, Dubai was the center of the universe with Doha trying desperately to catch up. Riyadh was in the middle of one of its transformations. And Egypt, my U.S. diplomat host was disappointed that Cairo was not a challenging post, as Baghdad had been! But the burgeoning youth, connected to the world through their smart phones, seemed increasingly restless, and a liberal class was unhappy with their presidents-for-life and the stiflingly corrupt bureaucracy.

Almost everyone was happy that Iraq was off the radar. In fact, many openly stated they wanted what the U.S. had established there, or at least for the U.S. to spend the same kinds of money and efforts on civil society and building open markets in the rest of the region.

I returned to Saudi Arabia where they ridiculed our anti-Bush president and his pseudo-Islamic credentials, and all was good. The Middle East seemed so quiet that Obama talked openly about ending the war in Iraq—a Win, according to his administration, with lots of platitudes to our boys and girls in uniform—so he could turn

to more pressing matters like socializing healthcare and solving global warming.

**The spoiler was an under-employed Tunisian vegetable salesman. Harassed by a policewoman for having an unlicensed business in a country as Western as you get in the Arab world, he protested by setting himself on fire, an almost unheard of form of civil protest in that part of the world. And the flames spread quickly.**

This was the time for a liberal and progressive American president to seize the moment and support those who sought reform in the corrupt Arab world. Yet he paid them lip service and allowed the Muslim Brotherhood to "help organize" the massive demonstrations of tens of thousands of 16-30 year-olds, most with a totally antithetical worldview. The moderate "Arab Center" has not recovered.

As 2011 progressed we all watched as one dictator after another fell. The corrupt Ben Ali fled Tunisia as the French turned their backs on his kleptocracy. Algeria, Jordan and Oman changed cabinets or announced immediate reforms saving them from a similar fate. Mubarak was deposed, jailed and even prosecuted on TV! King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia returned home from Morocco, handing out billions of dollars to keep the young liberals and ever-menacing tribals happy—while spending billions more on development that was said to provide jobs to more than 1 million unemployed Saudis, and massive amounts on internal security and greater state control of the media. The civil unrest in Bahrain scared the rest of Gulf Arabs, and they sent troops to brutally quell the Shia uprising. This led to a temporary arms embargo from European countries, but tellingly not the US. The obvious reason was the need to protect the American Navy base in Bahrain, but also to keep up the sale of American weapons to the region.

Meanwhile Yemen's 33-year President Saleh barely survived a massive bomb attack on his palace, only to be deposed, while a reinvigorated al-Qaeda in the Arabian





Peninsula increased its attacks also in Iraq. In fact, any casual observer would have known of the increasingly dictatorial behavior of Maliki and his Iranian-supported Da'wa party. In February 2011, he announced he would not seek a third term, a concession he later hoped the world had forgotten. Meanwhile, the two other regional dictators, Libya's Muammar Qaddafi and Syria's Bashar Assad were facing uprisings. For years we heard: "Do not mess with Syria as it will be a quagmire worse than Iraq." I heard it after visiting al-Qaim in 2005, when the U.S. Marines were desperate for support to eliminate the jihadist rat lines that ran down the Euphrates river valley from Syria all the way to the Sunni Triangle. And while we helped to dislodge Qaddafi, the President declared it was a NATO victory. But not before we ensured all those Qaddafi Family Office billions around the world were placed in receivership. (Where are they now as Libya becomes a failed state?). America's involvement faded into an arms re-purchasing program for export to Syrian "moderate" rebels—an arrangement that ended in a disgraceful disaster. Syria, in the meantime, went from bad to worse.

In the midst of all of this chaos, Obama exited Iraq by the end of 2011, primarily to fulfill a campaign promise as he geared up for reelection. ISIS (ISIS, IQ, ISIL...Da'esh, by its Arabic acronym), an al-Qaeda branch present in Iraq from the earliest days of the insurgency,

massively increased its attacks within Iraq, literally from the date of our departure, and by the end of 2013, raised their black flag in Ramadi and Fallujah.

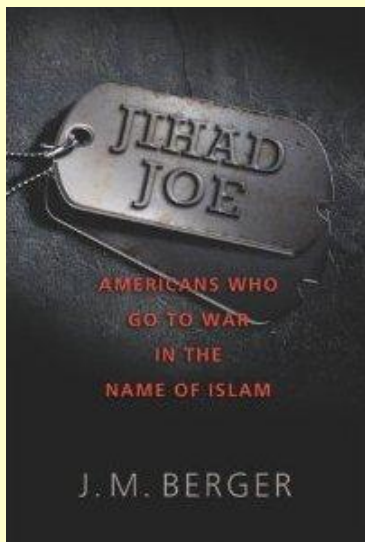
All of the worst actors began to gather on the borders of Mesopotamia, where Iran had been increasingly calling the shots, with the notable exception of oil-rich and American-protected (non-Arab and largely secular Muslim) Kurdistan.

The Arab youth and disaffected Muslims from around the world finally had the opportunity themselves to put videos like those they had been watching on YouTube. Twitter and other social media outlets sprung into action. The Islamist ideologues welcomed the new jihadist recruits and sent them off to battle. The funding, literally billions of dollars, has been supplied by wealthy Arabs in Kuwait, Jeddah, Riyadh, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha...from other Muslim countries and the global Arab/Muslim diaspora.

This is the Middle East our soldiers now find as they return once again to insert themselves in the middle of a series of concentric circles of a religious war: Sunni vs. Shia, secular vs. Islamist, Muslim vs. apostate, rich Gulf Arabs vs. the Arab Street.

In the Fall of 2010 the Arab World was at a crucial tipping point. Like it or not: America's commitment, or lack thereof, then and now would determine whether black will become the dominant color throughout the Middle East.

*Mark Burr is a former reconstruction adviser in Iraq and a businessman with over 20 years experience in the Middle East.*



**Terrorism experts Jessica Stern and J.M. Berger writing book on Islamic State group**

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/entertainment/books/275369951.html>

September 16 – Two leading authorities on terrorism, Jessica Stern and J.M. Berger, are collaborating on a book about the Islamic State group. Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, announced Tuesday it will publish "ISIS: The State of Terror" early next year. According to Ecco, the authors will examine the history of the extremist organization and offer suggestions on how to respond.

Berger is the author of "Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam" and is a contributor to Foreign Policy magazine. Stern was on the National Security Council staff during the Clinton administration, lectures on terrorism at Harvard University and is author of "Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill."



**Two ISIS supporters arrested in Australia for planning a public beheading in Sydney**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/bull20140918-two-isis-supporters-arrested-in-australia-for-planning-a-public-beheading-in-sydney>

September 18 – **Earlier this morning (Thursday), the Australian security services, conducting the largest counterterrorism raids in the Australia's history, arrested fifteen ISIS supporters, charging two of them with planning to grab an Australian citizen and publicly behead him on a Sydney street – while filming the operation for posting on social media.** The government says about 100 Australians are actively engaged in activities within Australia aiming to support extremist Islamist groups — recruiting fighters, grooming suicide bomber candidates, and providing funds and equipment.

Since 8 August, when the United States launched its air campaign against ISIS targets in Iraq while, at the same time, trying to put together an international coalition to fight and defeat the Islamist group, senior members of Islamic State have been urging the group's supporters in the West to carry out attacks against citizens of states likely to join the U.S.-led coalition.

Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott, speaking earlier today (Thursday) after the largest counterterrorism raids in the Australia's history, said that ISIS called on its supporters in Australia to grab citizens in Australia's major cities and behead them in public.

The planned public attack would have been similar to the murder of Lee Rigby, a British soldier who was attacked and killed in May 2013 by two Nigerian-born Muslim converts near the Royal Artillery Barracks in southeast London.

**More than 800 police officers were involved in raids in Sydney's north-west early Thursday morning, detaining fifteen people.**

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reports that two men were charged and nine people released. Under Australia's counterterrorism laws, those detained could be held for two weeks without charge.

One of the two men, Omarjan Azari, 22, appeared in Sydney central court on Thursday afternoon to face charges of preparing to commit a terrorist act. The police said he conspired to commit the public beheading with

the help of another man, Mohammad Baryalei, a former Sydney bouncer and actor of Afghan origin.



The Australian intelligence service said Baryalei is believed to be the highest-ranking Australian in Islamic State.

Separately, a 24-year-old man from Merrylands in western Sydney was arrested on charges of possessing an unauthorized weapon and possessing ammunition without a license.

Australia's attorney general, George Brandis, said an undercover operation had been under way since May. He told Australia's ABC TV that had it not been for Thursday's arrests, the beheadings would have gone ahead today or tomorrow (Friday).

"If ASIO [Australian Security Intelligence Organization] and the AFP [Australian Federal Police] and the Queensland and NSW [New South Wales] police had not acted today there is a likelihood this would have happened," Brandis said.

In papers filed in court, the prosecution said Azari planned to "shock, horrify and potentially terrify" the public with public killings. He was refused bail.



His next court appearance was set for 13 November.

SMH quoted defense lawyers to say that the case against Azari is based on one intercepted phone call, which the prosecution said was what triggered the operation. When asked about reports that there were plans to conduct a public beheading in Australia, Abbott replied: "That's the intelligence we received."

"The exhortations, quite direct exhortations, were coming from an Australian, who is apparently quite senior in ISIL, to networks of support back in Australia to conduct demonstration killings here in this country.

"So this is not just suspicion, this is intent and that's why the police and security agencies decided to act in the way they have," he told reporters.

Abbott dismissed the notion that Australia's renewed involvement in Iraq would increase the likelihood of terror attacks against Australian targets. He noted that Australia was targeted in Bali in 2002 before any involvement in the previous Iraq war.

that should never change about us. We should always be a free, fair, open and tolerant country."

AFP Acting Commissioner Andrew Colvin said a violent attack had been planned for "the streets of New South Wales."

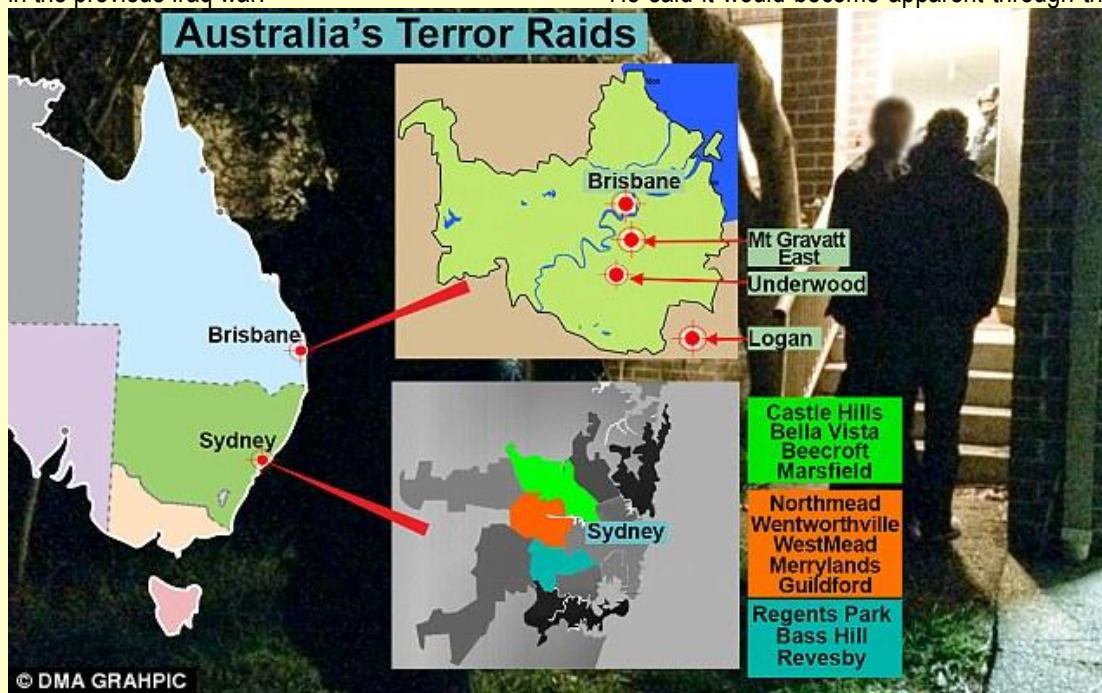
Reports in Australia said the plan was to kidnap someone from the street and behead them in public while filming it.

SMH notes that the pre-dawn raids in Sydney were conducted simultaneously, but were not directly related to, raids in Queensland with police saying the raids south of Brisbane were in relation to a counterterrorism raid last week, when two people were arrested and charged.

The New South Wales police commissioner, Andrew Scipione, said the operation reflected the strength and capability of Australia's counterterrorism forces.

"Our police will continue to work tirelessly to prevent any such attacks but certainly can I stress that right now, is a time for calm. We don't need to whip this up."

He said it would become apparent through the



"These people, I regret to say, do not hate us for what we do, they hate us for who we are and how we live. That's what makes us a target, the fact that we are different from their view of what an ideal society should look like, the fact that we are free, we are pluralist, we are tolerant, we are welcoming, we are accepting," he said.

"All of these, in their eyes, are wrong and that's what makes us a target and that's something

courts what was going to happen.

He added that some of those arrested have had their passports cancelled because they were planning to travel to Syria or Iraq.

**"This is the largest operation of its type undertaken in Australia's history,"** AFP's Colvin said.

"I think the message that we need to make clear here is that police are working very hard across this



country and are very well coordinated and the community should have absolute confidence in the work of their law enforcement security agencies to work together.

"While the raids in Queensland are not directly related to what has happened here today in NSW, as I said before, the investigations continue and we are looking at the linkages between the two."

NSW premier Mike Baird delivered warned would-be terrorists that there would be no escape from the authorities.

**"We will hunt you down," he said on Thursday. "If you have any intent to bring overseas conflicts here, if you have any intent to threaten the security of this community, we will hunt you down."**

When asked if the Prime Minister was aware of the alleged planned attacks, Colvin said, "Clearly you would understand that all levels of government need to understand what the national security threat in this country is. We have regular and ongoing briefings with all

levels of government including the prime minister on the generic aspects of the national counter-terrorism threat, the national security threat."

He added: "I don't think anyone would be surprised it's in the interests that the PM and political leaders have an understanding of what is going on."

**The Australian government, following the advice of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, last week raised its terrorism threat level from "medium" to "high" on a four-tier scale.** David Irvine, the director-general of the domestic spy agency, said the threat had been rising over the past year, mainly due to Australians joining ISIS to fight in Syria and Iraq.

**The government says about 100 Australians are actively engaged in activities within Australia aiming to support extremist Islamist groups** — recruiting fighters, grooming suicide bomber candidates, and providing funds and equipment.

**Japan to adopt automated airport gates equipped with facial recognition technology**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140918-japan-to-adopt-automated-airport-gates-equipped-with-facial-recognition-technology>

**More than eleven million people visited Japan last year, the highest on record, and the government is anticipating close to**



**twenty million foreigners in 2020, the year Tokyo will host the Summer Olympics and Paralympics.** **Japan plans to adopt automated airport immigration gates supported by facial recognition technology, because while the number of foreign visitors continues to increase, the number of immigration officers remains limited, or**

**even shrinks.** A general concern with using facial recognition technology at immigration gates is that passports can be valid for a decade, while a person's appearance may change within that timeframe. Another concern with the proposed system is how facial data image collected will be stored or erased.

A Japanese traveler tests out a facial recognition device at Narita International Airport on Aug. 4, 2014. (Mainichi)

Japan's Ministry of Justice plans to adopt automated airport immigration gates supported by facial recognition technology as the country anticipates an increase in the number of foreign visitors while the number of immigration officers remains limited. "Speeding up immigration procedures is an important issue, but increasing the number of immigration officials commensurate with the rising volume of work is not a realistic option," a justice ministry official said.

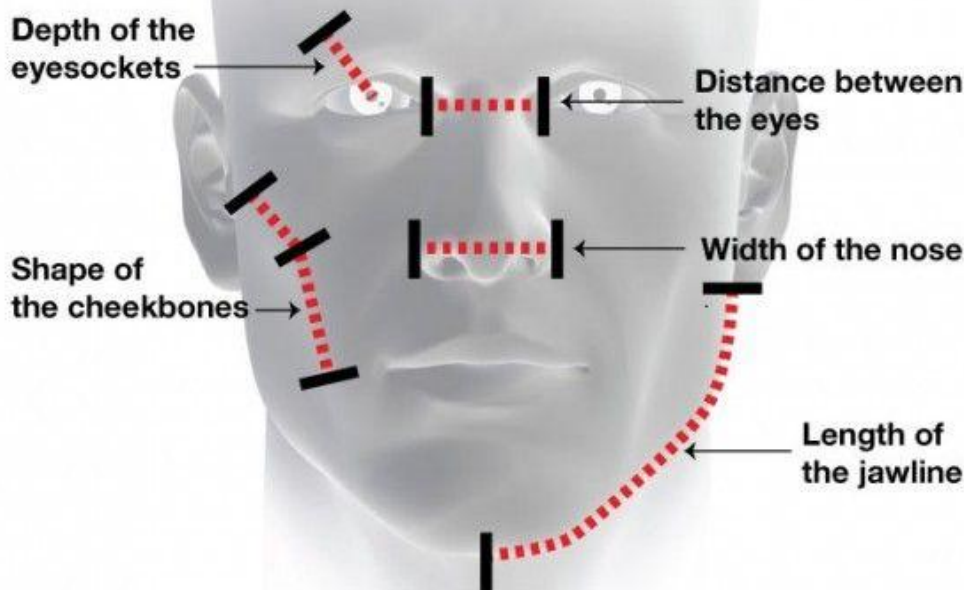


Some Japanese airports already allow registered passport holders and mid-to-long term foreign residents to use automated gates with fingerprint readers,

recognition system correctly identified the person being photographed as the person in the passport photo took an average of 17.4 seconds between the time passports

## Face recognition technology

Peaks and valleys create measurable landmarks in each face known as nodal points. Each person's face has about 80 nodal points which, when measured by facial recognition software, create a faceprint based on a numeric code representing a face in a database. Some features measured by the software are:



Source: Howstuffworks.com

SHEILA STORY/Lincoln Journal Star

but public resistance and concerns about privacy have stalled the popularity of the fingerprint method.

The facial recognition system, currently in **test mode**, reads facial image data from IC chips embedded in passports and compares it against a photograph taken at the immigration gate to determine if the identities match. Supporters of the technology say that unlike biometric identification systems like fingerprint scanners, users of facial recognition technology do not need to register prior to the system photographing them at immigration gates. Australia and the United Kingdom adopted facial recognition systems at immigration gates in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

Mainichi reports that roughly 29,000 users participated in Japan's first trial during the summer of 2012. **Cases in which the facial**

were scanned and the gates were opened; while immigration officials tend to take thirty seconds.

The system has gained a 90 percent favorability rate from trial participants. Officials do point out that a 17 percent error rate, in which the system failed to accurately recognize roughly one in every five trial participant, would need to be fixed. Errors were mainly due to the positioning of faces as the photographs were being taken, the room lighting, and bangs (fringe hairstyles).

**A general concern with using facial recognition technology at immigration gates is that passports can be valid for a decade, while a person's appearance may change within that timeframe.**

"Determining whether the system will be able to identify faces that have changed over the course of ten years will be an important part



of the trial,” said Aiko Omi, an immigration data analyst at the ministry of justice.

Immigration officials are now conducting further testing to help perfect the system before the number of foreign travelers increase dramatically. More than eleven million people visited Japan last year, the highest on record, and the government is anticipating close to twenty million foreigners in 2020, the year Tokyo will host the Summer Olympics and Paralympics.

**Another concern with the proposed system is how facial data image collected will be stored or erased.** Trial participants will have their photographs destroyed five years after study results have been analyzed, and electronics manufacturers participating in the most recent trial will destroy the data by year-

end. “There is nothing problematic in terms of how we are handling the personal information,” said an official at the Immigration Bureau.

Koji Ishimura, an information law professor at Hakuoh University remains concerned. “If there are exceptions to the intended use of the data, it’s important to get users’ consent only after they’ve been made aware of exemptions. If possible, a monitoring body that includes representatives from the general public should be set up to assess how the system is operated and how complaints are handled,” he said, adding that “unless we establish a framework in which people are monitoring systems, and not the other way around, operation of the facial recognition system will not go smoothly.”

**Iranian specialists failed to capture a sophisticated anti-Hizballah spying device which self-destructed**

Source: <http://www.debka.com/article/24252/Iranian-specialists-failed-to-capture-a-sophisticated-anti-Hizballah-spying-device-which-self-destructed>

**Hussein Khaidar, 25, from Ansariya village, was the Hizballah officer killed Friday, Sept. 5, trying to dismantle “odd-looking components” on which he had stumbled on a routine patrol at the Adloun village.** The village lies 40 km north of the Israeli border

belonged to another listening device were later gathered from the site without incident.

Adloun is located less than a kilometer west of the Lebanese main coastal highway and about the same distance east of the sea shore. It provides a key vantage point for the control and reconnaissance of highway traffic and activities on the shore.



Components of a listening device found in Lebanon

town of Rosh Hanikra and midway between the Lebanese ports of Tyre and Sidon, located at a junction which overlooks traffic running from the south to Beirut.

According to the Lebanese media, Khaidar and another young Lebanese man were struck dead by an unmanned Israeli aircraft overhead, which had been tracking them and blew up the mysterious object by remote control as soon as they found it. Fragments believed to have

Were the Lebanese media correct in attributing the cloud of black smoke rising over the village Friday to an Israeli drone blowing up an Israeli listening device which carried no identifying marks? Or was a bomb built into the charred boxes that appear in the photo attached to this article? How did this intriguing mechanism find its way to the Lebanese village of Adloun and what was it producing?

**Hizballah’s optic fiber communications**

It is important to remember that the Hizballah terrorist organization runs an independent militia in sovereign Lebanon outside the national army. Its massive arsenal of rockets worries Israel’s security chiefs even more than the Iranian menace. Hizballah is also



supported by a sophisticated hi-tech communications network that links its command centers, units in different parts of the country, rocket launchers, the residences of senior officials, storage depots and intelligence branches. Those communications are no doubt largely ciphered and therefore hard to intercept and decode.

These tasks are made doubly difficult by the fact that they run through optical fiber lines buried underground.

**Optical fibers are virtually indestructible by air attacks** and can theoretically carry an infinite volume of data for serving electronic mail, Internet surfers, files, faxes, videos and various command and control messages in battle conditions. They owe their high degree of durability to the fact that if one buried fibered telecommunication path is destroyed, a secondary one takes over without a pause in the traffic.

Communication firms in many countries operate by optical fiber networks for cell phones, cable television and military and government services.

#### **A high tech listening device**

External interfacing with an enemy's optical fiber infrastructure, which is what spies try to do, calls for special technological and operational resources, substantial investment and special expertise. It is also highly risky. Preparations for installing an eavesdropping device entail detailed and lengthy advance surveillance to search out the targeted network, precisely map its branches, identify the technology in use and select the right point for the interface.

The photos released by Hizballah do not betray the nature of the "odd-looking" components, some of which bear clear signs of a blast. But they do look as though they belonged to a high tech device capable of latching onto optic fibers

and containing signaling and firewall measures as well as a source of energy.

Autonomous high-tech spying devices planted secretly in enemy terrain need to have a self-supplying energy source sufficient to keep them functioning and signalling their home base over long periods, often stretching out into years. They need to stay working in extreme climate conditions of humidity, heat, cold and dirt, while staying hidden, silent and invisible.

The specially trained covert unit assigned with planting the device at the selected site will have reached it under cover of dark by secret pathways, possibly sea. They must plant it and make a clean getaway. The real test comes next. Is the device working properly? Is it intercepting enemy communications and broadcasting the requisite data back to its control center?

#### **Sophisticated self-destruct mechanism**

Hizballah is advised by a flock of Iranian expert engineers on how to stay ahead and beat the foreign eavesdropping measures that threaten its security. They belong to special Iranian units whose job it is to run to earth, capture intact and dissect sophisticated spying devices – so far without success. It is therefore most unlikely that a chance Hizballah patrol simply "stumbled" on the device, while on a routine patrol at Adloun Friday, as the Lebanese army spokesman reported in a press communiqué.

The presence of the drone overhead was undoubtedly connected to an event on the ground. But the *Al Manar* newspaper's description of Hussein Khaidar's death, while trying to dismantle a suspicious object, **indicates that the device was booby-trapped with just enough explosives to self-destruct and hit anyone curious enough to examine it before they discovered its secrets.**

### **Apparent New Al Qaeda-linked Magazine is Being Published**

By Anthony Kimery (Editor-in-Chief)

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/apparent-new-al-qaeda-linked-magazine-is-being-published/20b7ca255c21b48496cf627e242d214f.html>

**An 11-page English language publication called *Azbiru*, was posted Wednesday by a Dutch member of the Islamic State (IS) as a PDF file that he claimed is a new magazine published by Jabhat Al Nusra, a branch of Al Qaeda operating in Syria and Lebanon.**





The publication was disclosed by the Middle East Media Research Institute's (MEMRI) Jihad and Terrorism Threat Monitor, which scrutinizes Islamist terrorism and violent extremism worldwide, with special focus on activity within and emanating from the Arab world, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

The document "seems to be a partial and rough copy of the magazine, which has not yet been released by Jabhat Al Nusra itself," MEMRI said. "According to the table of contents, the issue contains articles glorifying jihad and martyrdom, commemorating Jabhat Al Nusra fighters who died in battle, a tribute to the Yemeni Al Qaeda cleric Anwar Al Awlaki, quotations from sources about the virtues of jihad and about Syria and more," MEMRI said.

However, MEMRI said "the file posted by the IS member includes only one article titled, 'The Abu Ali I Knew,' commemorating a Jabhat Al Nusra fighter, and a poem glorifying" Awlaki.

The PDF includes the article, *Anwar Speak About Jihad in Earth*, said to have been written by Awlaki, who was an American born recruiter for Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

killed September 30, 2011, in a US drone strike in Yemen.

The Department of Justice wrote a July 16, 2010 memorandum, *Applicability of Federal Criminal Laws and the Constitution to Contemplated Lethal Operations Against Shaykh Anwar al-Aulaqi*, outlining the Obama administration's legal justification for killing US citizens it considers Al Qaeda combatants.

### 5 Reasons Why the US Coalition Against ISIS is an Empty Shell

Source: <http://www.clarionproject.org/analysis/5-reasons-why-us-coalition-against-isis-empty-shell>



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry waits for the start of a Gulf Cooperation Council and Regional Partners meeting in Jeddah September 11, 2014. Kerry pressed Arab leaders to support U.S. President Barak Obama's plan for a military campaign against Islamic State militants. (Photo: © Reuters)

As U.S. jets pounded Islamic State positions north of Baghdad this week, diplomats pondered their options in Paris. U.S. President Barack Obama has stressed the

importance of a collaborative global effort to combat the Islamic State (commonly known as ISIS and ISIL) which has been rampaging across much of Iraq and Syria, slaughtering as they go.

The president said, "American military power is unmatched, but this can't be America's fight alone." He wants to build an international coalition which will come together to "degrade and destroy" the Islamic State. But based on the reactions of international leaders, he has yet to receive any concrete commitments to take an active part in the military campaign against the Islamic State.

**Representatives from 26 countries attended a conference in Paris on Monday to discuss the planned coalition.** The conference included diplomats from Western





countries, including the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada as well as the EU representative. Arab countries including Iraq itself Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, and the UAE attended, as did the Arab League representative. The presence of Russia, China and the United Nations underscored the global nature of the threat posed by the Islamic State.

The representatives issued a joint, 10-point statement condemning the Islamic State, expressing their full support for the new Iraqi government and their grave concern at the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Iraq. They also committed themselves to joining “appropriate military action” in support of the Iraqi government.

**For all this activity, there has been remarkably little offered in the way of concrete support. Here are five reasons why forming a committed coalition willing to donate troops has proven so difficult:**

### 1. Arabs and Muslims Do Not Trust America

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt in an effort to build much-needed support for the coalition among the U.S.’s key regional allies. Although he reported encouraging conversations, none of these three countries agreed to commit troops. Leaked reports from an anonymous Western diplomatic source said “there is a very real possibility that we could have the Saudi air force bombing targets inside Syria.” However, no such possibility has yet been made public.

Arab and Muslim nations regard Western policy, in general, and American policy, in particular, with great suspicion. One commentator on *Al-Arabiya* called the coalition “late, weak and badly planned” but still “better than nothing.” Middle East analyst Khaled Abu Toameh writing for the Gatestone Institute said that most reactions from Arab Muslims on joining the US led coalition against the ISIS was that, “This is not our war and we should not be fighting it.” They regard Obama’s foreign policy as vacillating and unreliable and not truly committed to the fight. They also blame America for creating the situation that led to the rise of the Islamic State in the first place, because of the 2003 Iraq war and the support for Nouri al-Maliki’s divisive government in the aftermath of that conflict.

In addition, Egypt’s government regards the U. S. as a Muslim Brotherhood ally that is not committed to fighting Islamists. Toameh argues that President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will never forgive Obama for supporting the Muslim Brotherhood.

### 2. Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar Actively Support Jihadists

Saudi and Turkey are both Islamist states with much to lose by being associated with an American-led coalition to destroy the Islamic

State. Saudi Arabia is worried about an internal uprising should it pursue an alliance with America against a group fighting for a very similar brand of Salafi Islam to its own state-sponsored Wahhabism.

Thousands of Saudis are serving in the Islamic State in all sorts of positions, and the Saudis have arrested recruiters for the Islamic State within its borders.

Turkey is slightly different, having been far more active in aiding the Islamic State and Sunni jihadists. Turkey’s porous border with Syria serves as a conduit for fighters, supplies and money headed to serve the needs of the self-declared caliphate.

**Oil from the Islamic State is smuggled the other way, from Syria into Turkey.** A former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey said in the *Wall Street Journal* that Turkey is a “non-ally” that has been funding and arming Jabhat al-Nusra. Erdogan has stated that Turkey will provide only logistical and humanitarian support against the Islamic State and take no aggressive action whatsoever.

### 3. Conflicting Loyalties in the Syrian Civil War Make Unity Difficult

Assad has been an ally of Russia for years, to a large extent due to the Russian naval base at Latakia. Russia will not join any U.S.-led coalition without the involvement or support of Assad. Sunni and Western allies, on the other hand, will not be part of any coalition that does support Assad. Public opinion and government policy prohibit any action in Syria that could inadvertently help President Bashar al-Assad. Obama’s promise to arm the moderates leads to the question of who exactly those moderates are. The majority of the forces aligned under the banner of the Free Syrian Army have been destroyed or have defected to other groups. The remnants



openly cooperate with Islamist factions such as Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamic Front. Finding an existing non-Islamist rebel army to support at this stage will be very hard.

**4. The EU Does Not Want to Get Involved**

Western countries other than America are perfectly happy for America to bear the lion's share of the cost, trouble and fallout for any Western involvement. Feared backlash from Muslim populations are part of the reason why European countries do not want to get involved in what is now a regional Middle Eastern war.

France and Britain, in particular, have large Muslim minorities and have had serious problems with home-grown terrorism in the past. Europe is in the grip of austerity measures, and there is intense domestic pressure to reduce spending. France's budget is already triple what the government predicted it would be, and thus has little appetite for further expenditures.

Britain is still scarred by the war in Iraq, which faced fierce opposition. Any attempt by Prime Minister David Cameron to put "boots on the ground" will face accusations of pandering to American adventurism. Furthermore the British parliament voted against conducting airstrikes against the Assad regime last year in a stunning rejection of the idea of liberal interventionism.

It is symptomatic of a viewpoint increasingly common – that the current Middle East conflict, however terrible, is none of Europe's business and that involvement in any capacity will only make things worse. This attitude was succinctly summed up by Guardian columnist Giles Fraser, who wrote, "We are witnessing a shift

in the political tectonic plates throughout the whole of the Middle East and beyond into Africa, and the west's apparently surgical involvement will probably do little more than generate some short-term satisfaction that we are doing something. It is not that I am morally squeamish about bombing IS fanatics. Rather, I think we ought to recognise that we are little more than bystanders to a war that is so much bigger than we ever imagined, and so much more complicated than the rhetoric of terrorism or limited conflict allows."

**5. No One Wants to Risk Their Own Soldiers**

France has agreed to join U.S.-led airstrikes, but not to send ground troops. The UK may join airstrikes but may not. It certainly will not be sending ground troops. The only country so far to commit openly to sending troops is Australia which has already begun sending 600 soldiers to Iraq. They will be performing a variety of roles including logistical support, providing strategic and military advice assisting in training, and Super Hornet aircraft. No frontline combat soldiers were included in the contingent.

When taken holistically, the coalition seems to consist of the battered remnants of the Iraqi army and the Kurds bolstered by Shiite militia groups sponsored by Iran. U.S. and French air strikes -- and a firm commitment from the United States, France and Britain not to put their own troops on the ground -- are so far the extent of Western intervention.

It seems that everybody wants the Islamic State destroyed, but nobody wants to have to do it themselves. The coalition is fraught with mistrust before the campaign even begins.

*Elliot Friedland is a research fellow at Clarion Project.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Very recently Qatar officially stated that they **do not** support IS.  
 ► Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/23/us-iraq-security-qatar-idUSKBN0GN0JK20140823>

**The History of ISIS Beheadings**

By Julie Lévesque

Source: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-history-of-isis-beheadings-part-of-the-training-manual-of-us-sponsored-syria-pro-democracy-terrorists/5402566>



*The recent beheadings of three Westerners, Foley, Sotloff and Haines, at the hands of the Islamic State (ISIS) has sparked a wave of indignation and strong condemnation by Western heads of state.*

*For anyone aware of what has been truly going on in Syria from*



*the outset of the war in March 2011, there is something unusual in these strong statements, which are now the object of a wave of “humanitarian bombings” under a counter-terrorism mandate directed against the Islamic State.*

Lest we forget, **from the outset of the war on Syria in March 2011, the US and its allies supported so-called “Freedom fighters” largely composed of the Al Nusrah and ISIS brigades.** Trained in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, these pro-democracy terrorists were routinely involved in atrocities including beheadings directed against Syrian civilians.

Double standards? In the course of the last three years, no Western leader made any statements in regards to these atrocities committed by “Muslim extremists”. They passed virtually unnoticed. No concern was expressed by the international community in this regard. With some exceptions, these beheadings were barely the object of media coverage.

Is it because the “freedom fighters” integrated by ISIS and Al Nusrah forces were beheading Syrian civilians rather than Westerners. Was it because the victims of these atrocities were opposed to the bloody “pro-democracy revolution” sponsored by US-NATO against the government of Bashar Al Assad?

Why are Western leaders only appalled now? Is it because now Westerners rather than Syrians are being decapitated?

These recent beheadings of American and British nationals, whether authentic or not, are obviously exploited to pave the way for a military intervention in Syria. This is a basic propaganda technique used time and time again to gather support for war and the mainstream media is there to convey this propaganda.

The mainstream media’s role is not to inform people but to appeal to their emotions and manipulate them into approving what they would otherwise refuse.

Westerners don’t want to go to war in the Middle East again? Show them one of their fellow countrymen getting his head cut off by a “Muslim” and they will change their mind. And you don’t even need to show anything, just say that people in high office have seen the horrific act and have their media mouthpieces repeat what they have said. It works every time.

This tactic can either be considered as an appeal to fear and/or an appeal to emotions: **An appeal to fear** (also called *argumentum ad metum* or *argumentum in terrorem*) is

a fallacy in which a person attempts to create support for an idea by using deception and propaganda in attempts to increase fear and prejudice toward a competitor. The appeal to fear is common in marketing and politics. (Wikipedia)

The **appeal to emotions**, or *argumentum ad passiones* is a logical fallacy which uses the manipulation of the recipient’s emotions, rather than valid logic, to win an argument.” (Wikipedia)

If this technique is used rather than valid arguments, it’s in part because it always works like a charm and this is what the mainstream media is for, but also because the “valid arguments” which could be used to intervene could only be lies and easily refuted, as this article will attempt to demonstrate.

Several independent media have questioned the authenticity of the beheading videos and some experts have clearly qualified them as “fake”, at least in the cases involving journalists Foley and Sotloff. The true identity of both men has also been questioned, especially Sotloff’s, who has known ties to the Israeli secret service (Mossad), and has been allegedly photographed behind a machine gun belonging to the Syrian rebel fighters.

As “Operation Mocking Bird” has documented, journalism is the best cover for an intelligence operative. Several former CIA officers have confirmed that it is used to plant stories that are picked up by news outlets as facts when they actually are propaganda pieces (see [CIA Manipulation: The Painful Truths Told by Phil Agee](#) and John Stockwell about [false reports generated by the CIA](#)). The DC based “producer” of the terror videos, SITE, with its close links to the Pentagon and the FBI, is also suspicious and tends to point to a major propaganda stunt originating in the US.

For the purpose of this article we will however examine the situation and the reaction of Western leaders from the point of view that these beheadings actually took place and that the videos are authentic.

**Beheadings from Western-backed rebels: “business as usual”**



Atrocities committed in Syria were reported from the outset of the unrest in 2011 by independent media. It took some time for the mainstream media to mention those atrocities, but since 2012, many reports have been published by the mainstream press, in spite of which the prevailing discourse on Syria remained essentially the same: the “tyrannical Assad regime” was brutally repressing a “pro-democracy rebellion” and the West was still expressing its unyielding support for the “pro-democracy fighters”.

The only difference was that at some point the U.S. authorities had to admit the presence of terrorist groups among the “moderate rebels” even though these so-called moderate rebels were never clearly identified. Even former CIA operative Bob Baer said in a CNN interview following Sotloff’s alleged beheading that “there are no moderate rebels in Syria”.

Here are only a few excerpts of various mainstream and independent articles and videos mentioning beheadings by rebels in Syria in 2012 and 2013, including reports from the UN and Human Rights Watch, which are usually used to support “humanitarian interventions” abroad.

The video you can find [here](#) was published on July 3, 2013 and shows a Christian priest and another Christian being decapitated. The host of the web site explains:

**WARNING GRAPHIC: A priest and another Christian were beheaded before a cheering crowd by Syrian insurgents who say they aided and abetted the enemy, President Bashar Assad’s military,** foreign media reported. An undated video that made the Internet rounds on Wednesday showed two unnamed men with tied hands surrounded by a cheering crowd of dozens, just moments before their heads were cut off with a small knife, Syria Report said. The attackers in the video then lifted the head for show, and placed it back on the body. The incident took place in the countryside of Idlib, the media report said. (RAW: Syrian Rebels Behead Christians, Military.com, July 3, 2013)

This *Daily Mail* article from December 2012 describes how another Christian was beheaded and his body fed to dogs in a town close to the Turkish border, where most rebel fighters are said to transit into Syrian territory: Christian Andrei Arbashe, 38, was **kidnapped and beheaded by rebel fighters in northern town of Ras Al-Ayn on the Turkish border.**

News came as pro-government forces celebrated their victory against rebels near Aleppo Airport.

**Syrian rebels beheaded a Christian man and fed his body to dogs, according to a nun who says the West is ignoring atrocities committed by Islamic extremists.**

The nun said taxi driver Andrei Arbashe, 38, was kidnapped after his brother was heard complaining that fighters against the ruling regime behaved like bandits.

She said **his headless corpse was found by the side of the road, surrounded by hungry dogs.** He had recently married and was soon to be a father...

Sister Agnes-Mariam de la Croix said: ‘His only crime was his brother criticised the rebels, accused them of acting like bandits, which is what they are.’

**There have been a growing number of accounts of atrocities carried out by rogue elements of the Syrian Free Army, which opposes dictator Bashar al-Assad and is recognised by Britain and the West as the legitimate leadership.**

‘The free and democratic world is supporting extremists,’ Sister Agnes-Miriam said from her sanctuary in Lebanon. ‘They want to impose Sharia Law and create an Islamic state in Syria.’ (Nick Fagge, Syria rebels ‘beheaded a Christian and fed him to the dogs’ as fears grow over Islamist atrocities, Daily Mail, December 31, 2012)

The term “rogue elements” is used to create distance from and excuse the FSA, but the frequency of beheadings and other atrocities committed by rebel fighters prove the contrary.

The German magazine *Der Spiegel* published in March 2012 a story featuring an “executioner” part of a “burial brigade”, some sort of death squad “responsible for the arbitrary execution of 350-400 people” who expressed “their opposition to the rule of terror of the Free Syrian Army (FSA)”:

This single “burial brigade”, according to the executioner’s testimony, was responsible for the **arbitrary execution of 350-400 people** including “prisoners” and “traitors”. The “traitors” are **Sunni civilians within the occupied urban and rural areas, who express their opposition to the rule of terror of the Free Syrian Army (FSA):**



“Since last summer, we have executed slightly



fewer than 150 men, which represents about 20 percent of our prisoners,” says Abu Rami. ... But the executioners of Homs have been busier with traitors within their own ranks than with prisoners of war. “If we catch a Sunni spying, or if a citizen betrays the revolution, we make it quick,” says the fighter. According to Abu Rami, Hussein’s burial brigade has put between 200 and 250 traitors to death since the beginning of the uprising.” (Ulrike Putz, Syria: Atrocities Committed by US-NATO Sponsored “Opposition”. Executioner for Syria’s “Rebels” Tells His Story, Der Spiegel Online, March 30, 2012)

In this independent report from *Human rights investigations*, a child is shown using a machete to cut a man’s head off and mentions the involvement of the Free Syrian Army (if you wish to see the video, click on the link to the original article):

Extensive and horrifying footage of an incident in which **two men are executed by beheading in which a child participates now comes from two different sources.**

Footage posted to YouTube by Voice of America Arabic (Radio Sawa) anchor and journalist Zaid Benjamin, shows a child hacking a prisoner’s neck with a machete.

...

In fact, different footage of the same incident was previously shown on 26 November on Sama TV (A Syrian channel) as part of a segment which demonstrated the difference between Turkish propaganda on the Syrian conflict and the actual reality.

The footage shown by Sama was edited to remove the most graphic content, but shows

more of the background to the incident. **The Free Syrian Army (FSA) brigade involved is apparently the Khalid ibn al-Waleed brigade.** (Syrian rebels use a child to behead a prisoner, Human rights investigations, December 10, 2012)

A United Nations report from June 2013 describes what appears to be the same scene:

**Syrian opposition forces** recruited a 14-year-old boy from Homs as a fighter and had a **child take part in beheading two government soldiers**, according to a **United Nations** report...

The report drew attention to video footage, submitted by the Russian mission to the UN in Geneva, showing the **decapitation of two regime soldiers, with a child responsible for one beheading.** “Following investigation, it is believed that the video is authentic and the men were soldiers, killed as depicted,” the UN panel said. (Flavia Krause-Jackson and Sangwon Yoon, Beheadings by Syrian Rebels Add to Atrocities, UN Says, Bloomberg, June 4, 2013)

Even the very conservative *Economist* reported in October 2013 about an “assault by rebels, led by al-Qaeda affiliates” against Alawites considered to be “heretics” by the jihadists.

This was day one of an **assault by rebels, led by al-Qaeda affiliates, on Syria’s northwestern coastal region.** Early in the morning bands of opposition fighters overran a government checkpoint and pushed into an area of ten villages, carrying out killings that Human Rights Watch, a New York-based pressure group, says may amount to crimes against humanity. **Local residents reported indiscriminate gunfire and murder.**

Home to Syrians of all creeds, the area is also the heartland of the Alawites, the esoteric Shia offshoot to which the ruling Assad family belongs and whose adherents the jihadists consider heretics. Over the course of the operation, Human Rights Watch says **the fighters killed 190 civilians.** Residents and hospital staff in Latakia, the nearest city, spoke of **burned bodies, beheaded corpses** and graves being dug in backyards. Two hundred people from the area remain hostage. (S.B., The war in Syria – Rebel atrocities, The Economist, October 13, 2013)

The BBC also commented on the same Human Rights Watch report:



The report names 190 civilians killed by the rebels, including at least 57 women, 18 children and 14 elderly men. The total number of dead is likely higher because many residents remained missing and bodies were buried in mass graves, it adds...

A doctor at a hospital in Latakia said **several of the bodies had** multiple gunshot wounds, stab wounds or **had been decapitated**. Some were burnt or had their feet bound, he added...

HRW says Islamist rebel groups – which include foreign fighters – are financed by individuals in Kuwait and the Gulf. It calls on the UN to impose an arms embargo on all groups credibly accused of war crimes. (Syria rebels executed civilians, says Human Rights

committed the assault are not linked to the Western-backed FSA, the latter did not participate in the assault. But the FSA DID participate in the assault since **“fighters under [the FSA General’s] command participated in the assault.”**

**The US was Supporting ISIS via the Free Syria Army**

Salim Idriss, who was replaced in February 2014 by Col Abd al-Ilah al-Bashir, even declared in November 2013, one month after the publication of the HRW report, that his relationship with ISIL (ISIS) was “good”:

**“My relationship with the brothers in ISIL is good... I communicate almost daily with brothers in ISIL to settle these disputes and**

issues. The issues are being overinflated by the media.”(FSA General Declares Support for ISIS & Al-Nusra)

He also said in a previous interview in January 2013 that the terrorist group Jabhat al-Nusra constituted “about 10% of the FSA”, a statement which also contradicts the BBC analysis. He said he didn’t know why it is listed



Watch, BBC, October 11, 2013)

Like every Western mainstream news outlet, the BBC has been biased on the Syrian issue and has defended the Western-backed Free Syrian Army right from the beginning. Confronted with this evidence of atrocities by the ones they kept promoting as being pro-democracy freedom fighters, the public broadcaster attempted to whitewash the Free Syrian Army with a somewhat absurd and contradictory statement:

HRW says about **20 opposition groups took part in the offensive and that five were involved in the attacks on civilians – the al-Nusra Front, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), Jaysh al-Muhajirin wa al-Ansar, Ahrar al-Sham and Suqour al-Izz**

**None are affiliated to the Western-backed Supreme Military Council of the Free Syrian Army, though SMC chief Gen Salim Idris did say at the time that fighters under his command participated in the assault... (Ibid.)**

The phrasing is very insidious since it leads the reader to believe that if the groups which

as a terrorist organization because all he saw was “good morals and brave and heroic fighting against the regime” and added: “They did not exhibit any abnormal behavior which is different from that of the FSA.” (Ibid.)

Should we conclude that “normal behavior” for the Western-backed FSA and ISIS includes beheading people?

The Human Rights Watch report from October 2013 explicitly states that the murders committed in “Operation to Save the Coast” in the Syrian region of Latakia were committed by 20 groups including ISIS, Jabhat al-Nusra AND the FSA. It also clearly indicates that individuals from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, know to be Western allies, funded and planned the “Operation to Save the Coast” and that the foreign fighters entering Latakia at the time almost did so entirely from Turkey, a NATO member.

One “Western diplomat raised the concern to Human Rights Watch that **in general the number of nationals from European countries going into Syria to**



fight was 'greater than the number of those who went from Europe to fight in Afghanistan or Iraq.'"

The testimony from a doctor working in the National Hospital in Latakia said "they had received 205 corpses of civilians killed during the August 4-August 18 operation" with "decapitation observed in most bodies."

**So if we summarize, over 200 civilians were killed in this single operation, most of them were decapitated, most probably by Western-backed foreign fighters transiting through a NATO member state.**

**Where was the disgust, the horror and the outrage from Western leaders back then?**

It is quite obvious that the decapitations of hundreds of Syrian civilians by Western-

backed forces would completely destroy the propaganda and prove that Assad was telling the truth when he said he was fighting a foreign terrorist invasion. That's why this report was not much talked about and the narrative stayed the same in the Western media.

But all other subsequent attempts to justify a military invasion in Syria failed and now we are faced with the most absurd scenario: the West pretends it must intervene against its own deadly creation: ISIS

The recent ISIS beheadings are just another pretext to intervene militarily in Syria. The hundreds of decapitations of Syrian nationals which have been committed by the Western proxy soldiers for years prove that this is just another PSYOP to gather support for another war in the Middle East.

► Longer excerpts of the Human Rights Watch report mentioned above can be found at source's URL.

*Julie Lévesque is a journalist and researcher with the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal. She was among the first independent journalists to visit Haiti in the wake of the January 2010 earthquake. In 2011, she was on board "The Spirit of Rachel Corrie", the only humanitarian vessel which penetrated Gaza territorial waters before being shot at by the Israeli Navy.*

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### **Pope Rejects Extra Security on Trip Despite Potential ISIS Threat**

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/pope-rejects-extra-security-trip-potential-isis-threat/story?id=25530992>



Pope Francis will have no additional security when he travels to the predominantly Muslim country of Albania this week, despite reports that the pontiff is a target for ISIS terrorists.



**The pope will use the same open-topped Jeep he uses at the Vatican during his single-day trip Sunday, a spokesman confirmed Monday.**

"There is no reason to change the pope's itinerary," the Rev. Frederico Lombardi said in a briefing Monday, explaining that there were no specific threats or concerns. "We are obviously paying attention but there is no need for concern or a change to his program in Albania."

The pope, 77, will use the open-topped vehicle because he prefers to be unhindered, Lombardi said. Recent unsourced Italian media reports claim the pope is a target for ISIS terrorists. Italian news reports say Albanian authorities are concerned about Muslim extremists who trained in Iraq and Syria who may have returned, according to The Associated Press.

Iraq's ambassador to the Holy See has also publicly expressed concerns.

"The Pope is indeed a target," Habeeb Al Sadr told Italian newspaper Il Messaggero late last week. "We know very well how these terrorists think... I would not exclude that ISIS would arrive to strike him."

Pope Francis told reporters last month the world would be justified in using force to stop ISIS aggression.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** It is known that Pope loves to be into contact with people during his public appearances. Been simple and reachable is one thing. Being dead is another. Perhaps his advisors should remind him that his death will serve no purpose given the mentality of the new emerged species in black. Perhaps a high tech bullet-proof vest under his official dressing can provide some peace of mind to his security officers. Because the unexpected always happens... and Albania is not the safest country on planet!

### U.S. monitoring terror plots from al-Qaida

Read more: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2014/09/19/US-monitoring-terror-plots-from-al-Qaida/2941411136802/#ixzz3DvXtA18O](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2014/09/19/US-monitoring-terror-plots-from-al-Qaida/2941411136802/#ixzz3DvXtA18O)

Analysts in the United States are monitoring terrorist threats originating from al-Qaida's Syrian arm, while the world's attention is turned to the Islamic State.

U.S. officials say they are closely watching the Nusra Front, the al-Qaida affiliate in Syria, and **another Syrian al-Qaida cell known as Khorasan**, adding Khorasan is focused on violence against the West and has an attraction to bomb plots. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper acknowledged Thursday Khorasan may be as dangerous as the Islamic State "in terms of danger to the homeland."

It was the first time a U.S. official recognized Khorasan's existence. Other officials suspect a bombing attempt could occur soon in Europe by Syrian or Turkish operatives. Khorasan and Nusra Front members are believed to be working on bomb plots as worldwide attention is focused on IS, and the al-Qaida offshoots are competing with IS for attention and prominence in the terrorist world.

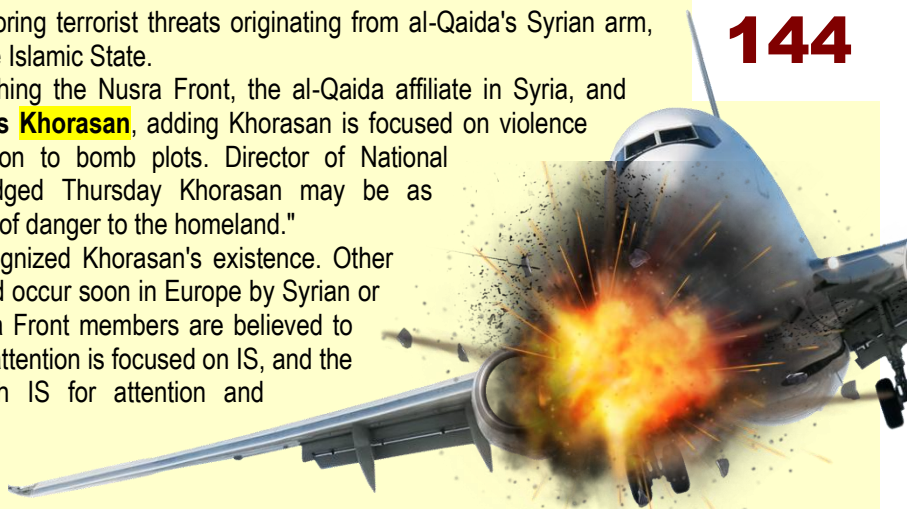
Potential targets or methods of attack were not mentioned by Washington officials, but the Syrian al-Qaida groups are suspected of perceiving they have less attention currently paid to them as Western countries prepare to strike IS targets.

The FBI is tracking suspecting militants returning to the U.S., and enhanced security is already in place at two dozen international airports. Airline passengers heading for the U.S. are experiencing enhanced security screenings, and laptops and telephones with dead batteries are banned from flights.

Officials explained some of their findings before the House Homeland Security Committee Wednesday. "In Syria, we've seen veteran al-Qaida fighters travel from Pakistan to take advantage of the permissive environment there," Matt Olsen, Director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center said in testimony Wednesday.

During his testimony, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said no examples of specific terrorist plans could be given and that "specific organizations...should be left to a classified setting."

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While IS is engaged in a territorial grab in Syria and Iraq, Khorasan is believed to be developing plots against Western targets, **especially aircraft**, involving jihadists with U.S. and European passports.

**Turkish - Dutch Hague jihadis planned attack on EU commission**

Source: <http://www.mfs-theothernews.com/2014/09/turkish-dutch-hague-jihadis-planned.html>

**Belgian justice has evidence that two jihadis from The Hague had plans to commit at the office of the European Commission in Brussels an attack.** That source has reported to the NIS. **The two, a man and a woman of Turkish origin, were early August at the Brussels airport Zaventem arrested when they returned from Turkey.** They had been in Syria.

Presumably The two suspects have the Belgian judiciary guilty of participating in a terrorist group, violation of the Arms Act and terrorist financing.

The suspects belonged to a terrorist group, which thus had, according to the sources of the

NOS, the European Commission as one of the targets for an attack on the eye.

Belgian justice would not confirm this. At



the moment the two residents of The Hague were arrested in Belgium, the Dutch police searched four homes in The Hague, including the Twickel Street in Moerwijk and Fannius Scholtenstraat in the Station Area. In the homes jihadist material was confiscated.

**Reportedly there are more jihadis sought in the Belgian study from the Netherlands.** According to the Belgian justice research focuses on Turkish Dutch that may have the jihadist networks ties. The suspects arrested in August are from The Hague, but would also regularly stay in Brussels. In their apartment in Brussels, the Belgian justice except jihadist material also found firearms and a bulletproof vest. *Hmmm....As 'usual' there's the Turkish link.*

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**Isil fanatics 'fear being killed by a woman will deprive them of virgins in paradise'**

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11110724/Isil-fanatics-fear-being-killed-by-a-woman-will-deprive-them-of-virgins-in-paradise.html>



Violent jihadis know their reward will come in heaven, in the shape of 72 virgins - but not apparently if they are killed by women.

The increasing number of female soldiers taking to the front line against extremists of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Isil) is sowing fear in their ranks that they will be denied their prize in paradise, according to Ed Royce, who chairs the US House International Relations Committee.

**"These Isil soldiers apparently believed that if they were killed in battle, they went to paradise as long as they were killed by a man,"** he told The New York Post, citing reporters of Kurdish female fighters laughing as they repelled attacks by the extremist group.



"And these female soldiers were communicating their satisfaction with the fact



that they had taken the fight to ISIL and had stopped the advance, turned back the advance - slayed a number of these fighters, who would then run away.

However, it seems that male fighters are unclear about whether dying at the hand of a woman comes with the expected reward.

Women have long been a feature of Kurdish peshmerga forces. Now many from threatened towns and villages are signing up to join all-women units to fend off Isil forces who are threatening to overrun their homeland.

"We are being trained to use snipers, Kalashnikovs, rocket propelled grenades and hand grenades," a woman from the minority Yazidi community told The Telegraph earlier this month in the Sinjar mountain range. Isil forces have overrun large areas of Iraq and



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Koranic verses or poetry promising 72 virgins



in paradise to jihadists who die in battle have been used frequently by radical imams and extremist groups as a recruitment tool.

control significant territory in neighbouring Iraq, imposing their harsh version of Islamic law. For women that means tough restrictions, such as bans on visiting markets or leaving the house without a headscarf.

They certainly are not allowed to fight. Tekoshin, a 27-year-old female Kurdish soldier, fighting in northern Iraq recently told AFP she had joined the struggle to protect women's rights.

She said many women knew the power they held over their opposition.

"I think [they] were more afraid of us than of the men,"

she said.

"They believe they'll go to hell if they die at a woman's hands."



## Shadowy group is led by former Osama bin Laden lieutenant Muhsin al-Fadhli

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/rival-terror-group-khorasan-poses-more-direct-threat-isis-warn-us-officials-1466495>

In recent months Isis – now rebranded as Islamic State – has appalled the world with its brutal exploits, which are broadcast on social media. But according to US defense officials there is another group, about which much less is known, that poses a more direct threat to the US.

**Washington DC officials told the New York Times that terror group 'Khorasan' had the US in its targets.**

**Led by Muhsin al-Fadhli, a senior al-Qaida operative who was close to Osama bin Laden, the Syria-based group is believed to be made up of battle-hardened al-Qaida members from the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa.**



Mushin al-Fadhli (US State Department)

AP reports that the group is working with al-Qaida affiliates in Yemen to plot bomb attacks on US aviation. The reason the group set up in Syria was not to become involved in the country's civil war, but to recruit Americans and Europeans whose passports would allow them to board airliners easily.

The US director of national intelligence, James R Clapper, told the newspaper that "in terms of threat to the homeland, Khorasan may pose as much of a danger as the Islamic State".

It is believed that the recent ban on cell phones and laptops on flights to the US from Europe and the Middle East was imposed following intelligence on Khorasan's activities.

### \$7 million bounty

A Kuwaiti national, al-Fadhli is believed to be one of the few people who was trusted enough to know about the 9/11 attacks before they were carried out. **He is believed to have moved to Iran after the US invasion of Afghanistan**, where in 2012 the US State Department described him as the group's main operative.

**He has a \$7m (£4.3m) bounty on his head**, and is believed to have links to wealthy Gulf State backers.

Some experts believe that Islamic State is more focussed on consolidating its territorial gains in Iraq and Syria that planning strikes against the West.

The chaos in Syria has led to it becoming a haven for Islamic extremist and radicals, where new groups are using it as a base to plan attacks.

"What you have is a growing body of extremists from around the world who are coming in and taking advantage of the ungoverned areas and creating informal ad hoc groups that are not directly aligned with Isis or Nusra," a former senior law enforcement official said.

Khorasan is believed to be a splinter group of Jabhat al Nusra, a Syrian jihadist group in Syria which is backed by al-Qaida.

**Khorasan's group's name refers to a part of the old Islamic caliphate that included Afghanistan.**

**September 22** - Monday night (5:30 a.m. [8:30 p.m. ET Monday]), the United States took action -- on its own -- against another terrorist organization, the Khorasan Group. Obama described its members as "seasoned al Qaeda operatives in Syria." U.S. officials said the group was plotting attacks against the United States and other Western targets. The United States fired **8** (out of 47 launched) **Tomahawk missiles** against Khorasan targets.



## FBI – Next Generation Identification

Source: [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/september/fbi-announces-biometrics-suites-full-operational-capability/fbi-announces-biometrics-suites-full-operational-capability?utm\\_campaign=email-Immediate&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=fbi-top-stories&utm\\_content=358800](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/september/fbi-announces-biometrics-suites-full-operational-capability/fbi-announces-biometrics-suites-full-operational-capability?utm_campaign=email-Immediate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=fbi-top-stories&utm_content=358800)

Agencies searching the FBI's criminal history record database for matches to their subjects are getting faster and more accurate responses—the result of the Bureau's 10-year effort to improve its ability to provide law enforcement partners with timely, high-quality identification.

Earlier this month, the **FBI announced the Next Generation Identification system, or NGI, is now at full operational capability.**

The system replaced the Integrated Automated



Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS), the Bureau's longstanding repository for fingerprints. NGI's incremental roll-out, which began in 2010, has already seen significant improvements in accuracy rates on queries, the result of new high-tech tools and algorithms that more effectively search more than 100 million records. Fingerprint matches are now better than 99 percent accurate, and hits on latent prints (prints lifted from crime scenes, for example) have tripled from 27 percent accuracy in the old IAFIS system to more than 81 percent today.

"NGI gives us this opportunity to not only upgrade and enhance technology that we've been using for years, but it also lets us leverage new technology that can help us do our jobs better," said Steve Morris, assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Justice

Information Services (CJIS) Division, which runs NGI.

**Enhancements under NGI include the following:**

- **Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC):** Deployed in 2011, it's a searchable subset of what Morris described as the database's "worst of the worst offenders," including terrorists and dangerous fugitives. Using a mobile device, police can take two fingerprints from a subject and remotely query the database and get immediate results. "NGI provides a quicker mobile identification for the officer," Morris said.
- **National Palm Print System:** In May 2013, NGI expanded beyond traditional finger and thumbprint capabilities to include palms. Morris said the majority of prints left at crime scenes contain hand ridges and palm prints. Just this month, one latent palm print returned a match.
- **Rap Back:** Entities that conduct background checks on individuals holding positions of trust (teachers, camp counselors) can receive notifications if the individual is subsequently involved in criminal activity. Launched earlier this year, Rap Back is named for the process of reporting back when a person is involved in criminal activity.
- **Interstate Photo System (IPS):** Launched this year, NGI's facial recognition capability provides a way to search millions of mug shots or images associated with criminal identities for potential matches. Note that civil files (such as those in Rap Back) and criminal mug shots reside in a repository separated by identity group, so an innocent schoolteacher's image isn't going to appear when the system returns an array of possible candidates in a criminal query. "If law enforcement submits that photo, they're going to get back possible candidates from the criminal file," said Morris. "They're not getting the ones from the civil file."



In safeguarding privacy and protecting the public's rights and civil liberties, NGI is subject to the same extensive security protections, access limitations, and quality control standards already in existence for IAFIS. A thorough privacy impact assessment is completed and submitted to DOJ for each enhancement under NGI.

recognition doesn't mean that we somehow now have this ability to go out and start collecting video feeds," Morris said. "That's not what this is about. It's a technology that allows us to digitally compare criminal mug shot photos that we have in our database against one another."

For more than 18,000 law enforcement



The data center at the Criminal Justice Information Services Division in West Virginia is home to the Next Generation Identification system, or NGI.

The facial recognition system is not connected to the Internet or social networks or your local Department of Motor Vehicles. "Facial

agencies and partners—and their constituents—upgrading to NGI means increased accuracy and improved, faster intelligence. "Not only are we providing a better, more accurate technology, but we're able to provide all these better services more efficiently," Morris said.

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**Turkey sends three French jihadists home on wrong flight**

Source: <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/turkey-sends-three-french-jihadists-home-wrong-flight>

September 24 – **Three men suspected of joining Islamist militants in Syria gave themselves in to French authorities on Wednesday after a day of high confusion which exposed security shortcomings in France, including poor collaboration with NATO ally Turkey.**

A senior French minister has criticized Turkey after plans to arrest suspected jihadis returning from Syria collapsed when they were put on the wrong flight.

**As security agents waited at a Paris airport, the three suspects were flown to Marseille in southern France, where they left the airport unchallenged.**

Officials wrongly claimed on Tuesday the three French nationals - who include the brother-in-law of a gunman who killed seven people in France in 2012 - had already been arrested before admitting they were still at large.

The lawyer for Gael Maurize, one of the men, said they had handed themselves in at a village police station after driving some 170 km (105 miles) northwest of Marseille airport where they had landed. Authorities had been waiting for them in Paris.

"The three men handed themselves in because they want to be listened to by the authorities," lawyer Apollinaire



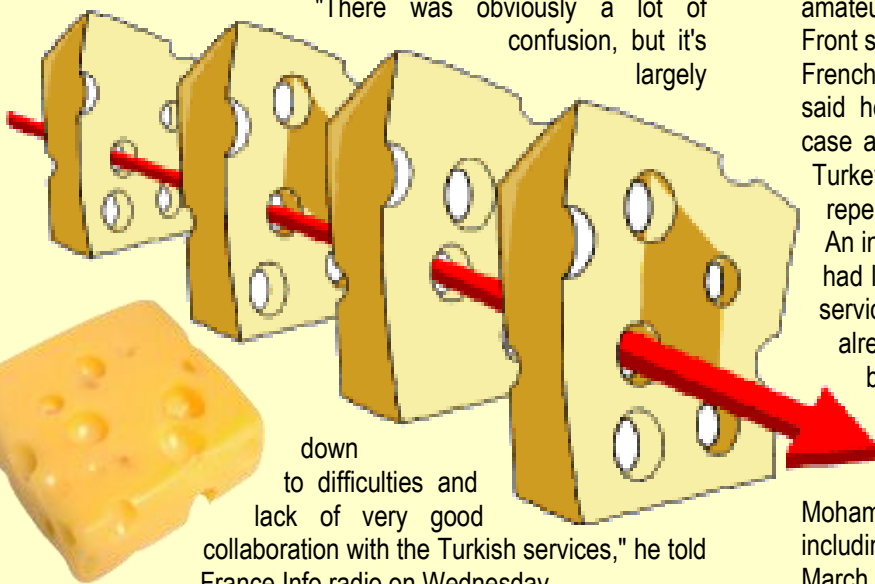
Legros-Gimbert told Reuters, adding the men had been in touch with French authorities for several months before their return.

"They were stunned not to have been questioned yesterday."

The government has also been lobbying lawmakers to adopt tougher anti-terrorism legislation to prevent French citizens joining militants abroad. Paris fears returning French fighters, radicalised by their experiences in the Middle East, could plot attacks on their home turf.

Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian tried to push some of the blame for the confusion over the men's fate onto Turkey.

"There was obviously a lot of confusion, but it's largely



down to difficulties and lack of very good collaboration with the Turkish services," he told France Info radio on Wednesday.

"This confusion shows we have to strengthen our relations, the methods and the actions with the Turkish authorities."

Asked about the case, a Turkish foreign ministry official said: "Turkey has done what needed to be done on this matter."

Thousands of volunteers from France and other Western countries have travelled to Syria and Iraq, often via Turkey, to join Islamist fighters, including the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) which now controls large swathes of Syrian and Iraqi territory.

**Turkish authorities put the three men on a plane bound for Marseille on Tuesday after the pilot of an earlier flight to Paris had refused to let them board because they lacked necessary documents.**

Compounding the confusion, the French Interior Ministry then said they had been arrested on arrival in Paris and had been

charged with being linked to a terrorist organization.

It later admitted this was not the case and said the French intelligence services had only been informed of their arrival after they had entered France at Marseille without checks.

"The Turkish initiative to change the plane was unfortunate," Le Drian said, adding the passport control system in Marseille had not been working, as is "often the case."

Politicians from the far-right National Front to the Green Party decried what they called the government's incompetence.

"The non-arrest of the three suspected jihadis from Turkey illustrates the extraordinary amateurism of the government," the National Front said in a statement.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said he had ordered an investigation of the case and said he would also travel shortly to Turkey to ensure the errors were not repeated.

An interior ministry official said the three men had long been under surveillance by security services. One of them, Imad Jebali, has already spent time in a French prison after being charged for links to a jihadist network in Iraq in 2007.

Another of the three, Abdelwaheb al Baghdadi, is the brother-in-law of Mohamed Merah, who killed seven people including three children in southwest France in March 2012 before being shot dead by police. Christian Etelin, a lawyer advising Baghdadi's wife, told Reuters on Tuesday the men had originally gone to Syria to live in a religious society. They had escaped ISIS to hand themselves over to Turkish officials because they had been terrified by the "fanaticism" there, he said.

Diplomats and officials in Turkey say intelligence is not being sufficiently utilized to prevent foreign nationals travelling to join militants in Syria and Iraq.

Security experts said French police officers based in Turkey should have been coordinating Tuesday's handover of the men.

"It's impossible to understand how we could have missed three jihadis when there is a major terrorism threat," said Eric Denece, Director of French Center for Research on Intelligence.



### FBI Releases Study on Active Shooter Incidents

Covers 2000-2013 Time Frame

Source: [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/september/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents?utm\\_campaign=email-lmmediate&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=fbi-top-stories&utm\\_content=359177](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/september/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents?utm_campaign=email-lmmediate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=fbi-top-stories&utm_content=359177)

September 24 – Today the FBI is releasing a study of 160 active shooter incidents that occurred between 2000 and 2013 throughout

personnel, members of the general public, etc.—by giving them a better understanding of how these incidents play out.



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the U.S. The primary purpose of the study? To provide our law enforcement partners—normally the first responders on the scene of these dangerous and fast-moving events—with data that will help them to better prepare for and respond to these incidents, saving more lives and keeping themselves safer in the process.

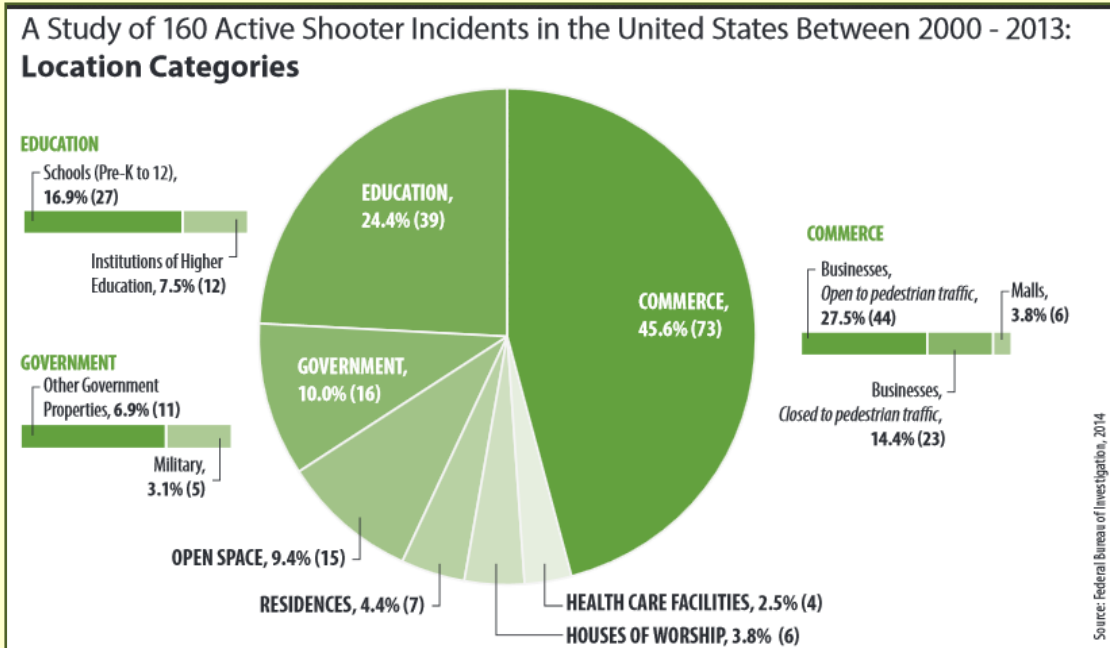
But we believe the information contained in this study can benefit anyone who could potentially be in an active shooter situation—like emergency personnel, employees of retail corporations and other businesses, educators and students, government and military

We began the study in early 2014. With assistance from Texas State University’s Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center, we researched possible active shooter incidents in the U.S. during our selected time frame using official police records, after action reports, and shooting commission documents as well as FBI resources and open source information. We identified 160 events that fit our criteria—individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in populated areas (excluding shootings related to gang or drug violence).



Once the incidents were identified—and we’re confident that our research captured the vast majority of active shooter events falling within the specified time frame—we looked at each incident separately to identify its

Using the results of this study, the Bureau’s behavioral analysis experts will now delve deeper into why these shooters did what they did in an effort to help strengthen prevention efforts around the country.



characteristics, then we correlated the data from all of the incidents to get a fuller picture of active shooter incidents in general. (See sidebar for highlights of the study’s overall findings.)

Because so many of these incidents unfold so rapidly, Special Agent Katherine Schweit—who heads the FBI’s Active Shooter Initiative—says she hopes the study “demonstrates the need not only for enhanced preparation on the part of law enforcement and other first responders, but also for civilians to be engaged in discussions and training on decisions they’d have to make in an active shooter situation.”

Today’s study is just one of the resources the FBI offers to its law enforcement partners and others to help coordinate and enhance the response to active shooter incidents. Other resources—due in part to last year’s Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act and a federal multi-agency initiative targeting violent crime—include training for first responders, conferences for law enforcement executives, operational support in the event of an active shooter event, and assistance to victims. The Bureau is in a unique position to offer this type of assistance—we’ve played a large role in supporting the response to every major active shooter incident in recent years.

**Major Findings from the FBI’s Active Shooter Incidents Study**

The just-released “A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013” contains a full list of the 160 incidents used in study, including those that occurred at Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook Elementary School, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Fort Hood, the Aurora (Colorado) Cinemark Century 16 movie theater, the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, and the Washington Navy Yard, as well as numerous other tragic shootings.

**Here are some of the study’s findings:**

- Active shooter incidents are becoming more frequent—the first seven years of the study show an average of 6.4 incidents annually, while the last seven years show 16.4 incidents annually.
- These incidents resulted in a total of 1,043 casualties (486 killed, 557 wounded—excluding the shooters).





- All but six of the 160 incidents involved male shooters (and only two involved more than one shooter).
- More than half of the incidents—90 shootings—ended on the shooter's initiative (i.e., suicide, fleeing), while 21 incidents ended after unarmed citizens successfully restrained the shooter.
- In 21 of the 45 incidents where law enforcement had to engage the shooter to end the threat, nine officers were killed and 28 were wounded.
- The largest percentage of incidents—45.6 percent—took place in a commercial environment (73 incidents), followed by 24.3 percent that took place in an educational environment (39 incidents). The remaining incidents occurred at the other location types specified in the study—open spaces, military and other government properties, residential properties, houses of worship, and health care facilities.

### **Tension between humanitarian ideals, fear of terrorism in European asylum decisions**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140925-tension-between-humanitarian-ideals-fear-of-terrorism-in-european-asylum-decisions>

September 25 – **A University of Kansas researcher has found that European states that experienced a terrorist attack on their own soil since 1980 were less likely to grant asylum to refugees.**

Nazli Avdan's study also found, however, that on the whole, concerns over terrorism in Europe have not eroded underpinnings of the Geneva Convention's principles regarding asylum admission.

"Generally speaking, the findings show the continuing influence of morals and humanitarian norms in policy-making. Despite concerns about terrorism, the humanitarian underpinnings of the Geneva regime on asylum are still robust," said Avdan, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science.

A KU release reports that her study found that countries did tend to tighten and slightly erode these norms in terms of full asylum recognition rates rather than composite rates that also include leave-to-stay without permanent recognition.

"Where security concerns hold sway is in cases involving direct attacks such as incidents on a state's own soil or harming its own citizens," she said.

**Avdan examined asylum decisions by seventeen European Union states, Norway, and Switzerland from 1980 to 2007, and her study, "Do Asylum Recognition Rates in Europe Respond to Transnational Terrorism? The Migration-Security Nexus Revisited," was published recently in the *European Union Politics*.**

The 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States created a growing anxiety about global terrorism, and Avdan said she found that two subsequent major terrorist attacks in Europe — the 2004 Madrid attacks and 2005 London bombings — caused Spain and the United Kingdom to institute tighter controls on granting asylum to refugees seeking to enter either country.

"You see more of this sort of tightening and reluctance to grant full asylum admission, which affords political migrants full refugee status, as defined by the Geneva Convention of 1951," said Avdan, who studies immigration and terrorism.

Interestingly, she found that in the wake of the 2004 and 2005 attacks, Spain and the United Kingdom did not seem to punish certain origin states that tend to be home to certain terrorist groups. They simply became more restrictive across the board at granting asylum.

For example, citizens such as minority Christians could apply from countries where there are brutal terrorism groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, where they are under threat of violence at home.

"They would be treated more favorably, I would say, based on my findings, which suggested that a high volume of terrorism within states leads to more tolerant policies against these states," Avdan said.

"That's a good thing."

Asylum seekers are foreigners who seek admission to another state claiming an inability or unwillingness to return to their home country because of a well-founded fear of prosecution.



“This allays a fundamental concern expression by champions of humanitarianism that countries would be predisposed to return asylum seekers to states that are also the hotbeds of terrorism, on the grounds that admitting these migrants poses a threat to states’ security,” Avdan said.

She said in spite of the more intense media attention and fears about terrorism since 2001, on the whole European countries still adhere to the Geneva principles on handling asylum requests that need to be adjudicated.

“Human rights principles prove resilient to worldwide terrorism, showing that across Europe the Geneva regime still maintains its relevance,” Avdan said. “I was surprised to find that for all of the talk about much ado about humanitarianism on decline, that’s not the case.”

She said one future policy implication might include pushes to revamp Geneva principles in the future because she found European destination states to be more reluctant to grant full refugee status to migrants and instead permit them to stay temporarily for humanitarian reasons.

**“The trend toward admitting refugees on a temporary basis is leaving these migrants in a capacity to not be able to contribute to the economy of the country because they can never acquire permanent jobs,”** Avdan said. **“And that’s actually more of an economic burden and drain on the receiving country.”**

The University of Kansas is a major comprehensive research and teaching university. The university’s mission is to lift students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world. The KU News Service is the central public relations office for the Lawrence campus.

— *Read more in Nazli Avdan, “Do asylum recognition rates in Europe respond to transnational terrorism? The migration-security nexus revisited,” European Union Politics (16 June 2014)*

**EDITOR’S COMMENT:** Humanity is a major characteristic of human race. But even humanity has its limits. Especially when the hosting country (e.g. Greece – that happens to be the EU portal to Middle East and one of the portals to Africa) CANNOT afford the masses entering illegally its borders; cannot contribute to national economy; cannot provide background history while the country itself is involved in a catastrophic financial turmoil for the last four years! What then? And why all those countries generating/fomenting the unrest in that part of the world are not willing to contribute to the global humanitarian problem? Philosophy time is over; it is time for action and realistic solutions!



**The future of mankind...**



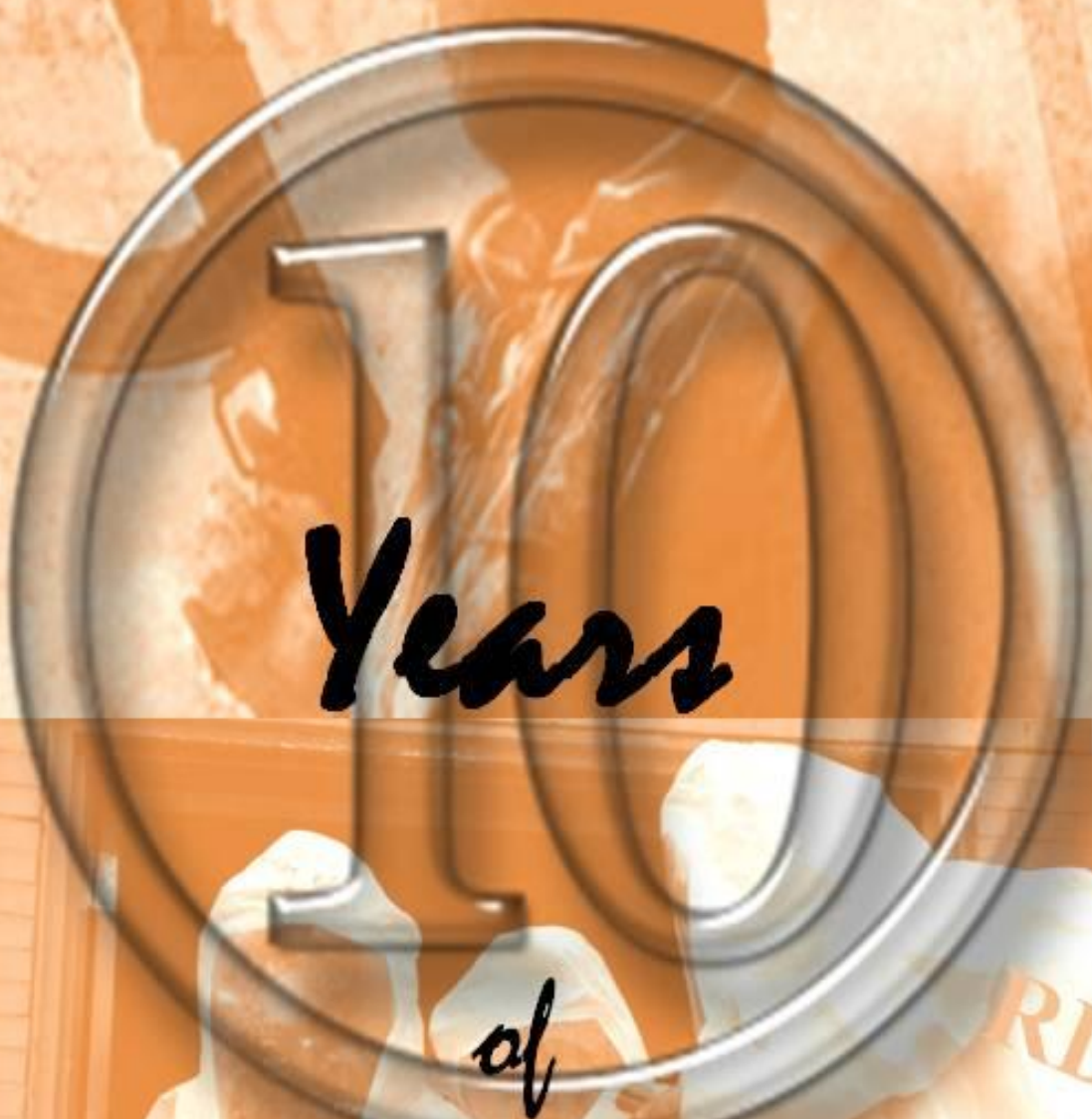


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**WE have to be lucky all the time. THEY have to be lucky only once!**