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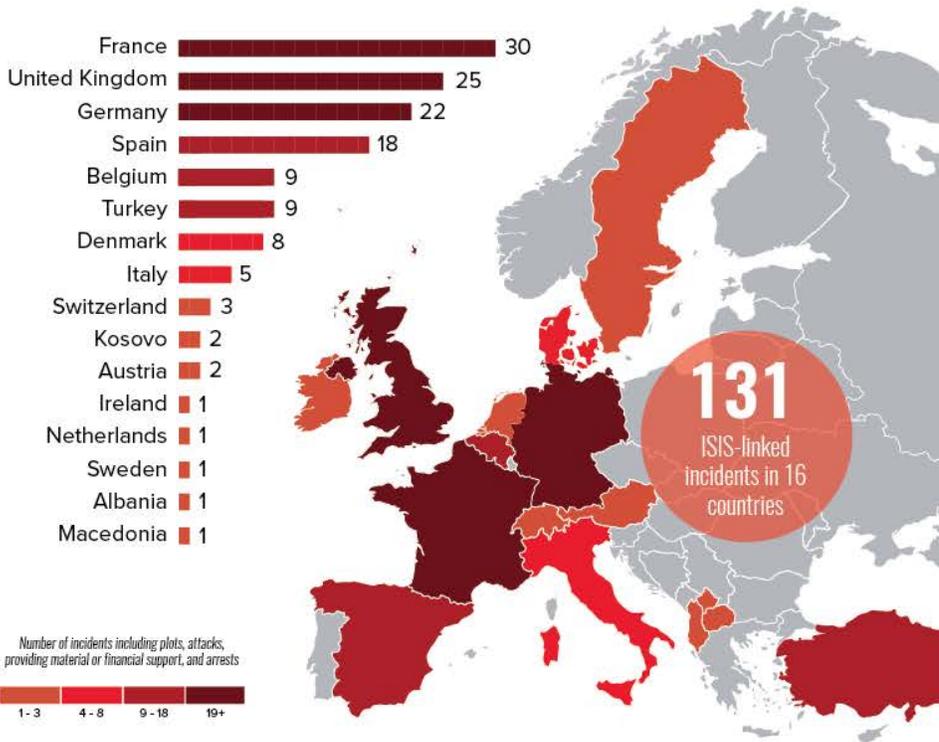
November 2017 Terror Threat Snapshot

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TERROR CAMPAIGN IN EUROPE

Number of ISIS-linked incidents in Europe since 2013



ISIS-LINKED PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST

Incidents since 2013 broken down by weapon



72 CASES

Where ISIS used or attempted to build or use explosives



19 CASES

Where ISIS used a vehicle as a weapon



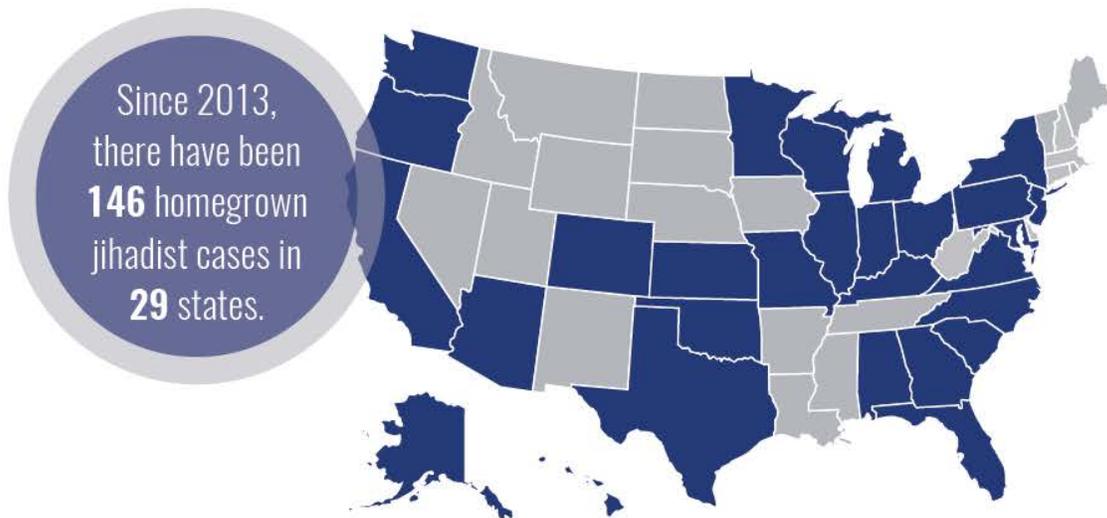
55 CASES

Where ISIS used an edged weapon

This document is produced by the Majority Staff of the House Homeland Security Committee. It is based on information culled from open source materials. Plots and attacks utilizing multiple weapons are included in the totals for each weapon.

THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

Homegrown jihadist cases include plots to attack, overseas travel, financial support, lying to authorities, and weapons charges



Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

KEY POINTS¹

- ◆ Acting Director of Homeland Security Elaine Duke [stated that](#), “The threat is still severe. The terrorist organizations, be it ISIS or al-Qaeda or others, want to have the big explosion like they did on 9/11. They want to take down aircraft, the intelligence is clear on that.” [She went on to explain that](#), “They are using small plots, and they are happy to have the small plots. Creating terror is their goal. A bladed weapon attack causes terror and continues to disrupt the world, but that does not mean they have given up on a major aviation plot.”
- ◆ On [October 31, 2017](#) Sayfullo Habibullaevic Saipov, 29, a native of Uzbekistan, drove a rented truck down a bicycle lane in New York City, killing eight and wounding 13. He then exited the vehicle holding a pellet gun and a paintball gun before being shot and arrested by police. A note written by the terrorist was found near the truck, claiming that he had committed the attack in the name of ISIS. Saipov entered the U.S. legally in 2010 under the Diversity Visa Program, a lottery system which allows immigrants from certain countries to attain permanent resident status.
- ◆ The U.S.-led coalition continues to make progress in eliminating ISIS safe havens in Iraq and Syria. The most significant development in October was [the liberation of Raqqa](#), which has served as the group’s de facto capital for the past three years. Despite these territorial losses, ISIS maintains robust propaganda and external operation capabilities, both of which represent a significant threat to the U.S. and our allies.
- ◆ As the U.S.-led coalition reclaimed terrorist-controlled territory over the past few years, significant numbers of foreign fighters have chosen to return to their countries of origin. [Recent estimates](#) put the number of returnees at around 5,000 out of an estimated 40,000. These individuals are among the deadliest, hardened, and most experienced terrorist operatives, and they pose a significant threat to the West. While ISIS-held territory has [dropped from 40,000 square miles to only 2,100](#), [the terrorist group's online recruiting and networking operations](#) remain a serious threat.
- ◆ The U.S. has increased military and intelligence operations around the world to combat Islamist extremism. [Airstrikes in Afghanistan have increased under a new strategy to “more proactively target”](#) terrorists in the region. [Intelligence operations are also becoming more aggressive](#), and there has been a renewed focus on the Taliban, which has [emerged as the primary threat in Afghanistan](#).

¹ Unless otherwise specified, incidents included in this report span October 1 through October 31. All figures are based on open-source and government data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

- ◆ On October 22, Philippine government officials [declared an end to the five month-long engagement with ISIS-inspired militants](#). The city of Marawi, which was occupied by the terrorists, was under siege for 154 days. The brutal fighting left 920 dead, and government forces are continuing to clear the city and surrounding area of IEDs.

HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. remain a concern. Since 2013, there have been 146 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

Recent Developments

- ◆ [October 16, 2017](#): Ahmad Khan Rahimi, 29, of Elizabeth, New Jersey was convicted of constructing and detonating multiple explosives in New York and New Jersey in September 2016. Rahimi, a naturalized citizen, has been sentenced to life in prison.
- ◆ [October 18, 2017](#): David Daoud Wright, 28, of Everett, Massachusetts was convicted of attempting to provide material support to ISIS and for plotting a terrorist attack targeting U.S. citizens. The conviction is the result of an inter-agency task force investigation, comprised of local, state, and federal security services.
- ◆ [October 19, 2017](#): Abdella Ahmad Tounisi, 23, of Aurora, Illinois, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for attempting to join the Al-Nusra Front. Tounisi was arrested in April 2013 while attempting to travel to Turkey, with the intention to continuing on to Syria to join the terrorist organization.
- ◆ [October 25, 2017](#): Yousef Mohammed Ramadan, 28, of Ypsilanti, Michigan who was arrested by the FBI's counterterrorism team for gun charges, claimed to be a member of ISIS. Ramadan admitted to supporting the terrorist group, manufacturing pipe bombs, and consuming terrorist propaganda.

ISIS IN THE WEST

Recent Developments

- ◆ [October 1, 2017](#): Ahmed Hannachi, 29, stabbed two women to death in Marseille, France, before being shot and killed by French security services. Hannachi reportedly shouted "Allahu Akbar" while attack the women. Authorities have

arrested several people in connection to the attack, including Hannachi's brother, Anis Hannachi.

- ◆ [October 1, 2017](#): Abdulahi Hasan Sharif, 30, a Somali-born refugee, rammed a police officer with a van before exiting the vehicle and stabbing the officer in Edmonton, Canada. The attacker injured four additional pedestrians while fleeing the scene in a rented van. An ISIS flag was found in the van of the attacker, who was known to Canadian authorities for espousing extremist views.
- ◆ [October 6, 2017](#): Charges were unsealed against Abdulrahman El Bahnasawy, a 19-year-old Canadian citizen, Talha Haroon, a 19-year-old U.S. citizen, and Russell Salic, a 37-year-old Philippine citizen, for plotting an ISIS attack in New York City. The three men were planning to detonate explosives in Times Square and the subway system, and use firearms to attack various concert venues.
- ◆ [October 13, 2017](#): An unidentified man in Vienna, Austria was arrested for attempting to travel to Syria and join ISIS. The man claimed to have been traveling to meet and marry his fiancé in Turkey, however there is no evidence that the woman existed. He also was in possession of false documents.
- ◆ [October 31, 2017](#): Mirsad Kandic, an ISIS terrorist from Kosovo who has been sought by the U.S. for years was extradited from Sarajevo to face charges in the U.S. Kandic is suspected of supplying ISIS with weapons and explosives, and was considered an important member of the organization.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

ISIS

Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [October 17, 2017](#): U.S. airstrikes against two ISIS training camps in Yemen resulted in the death of dozens of militants. These strikes were the first U.S. military action against ISIS elements in Yemen.
- ◆ [October 26, 2017](#): Iraqi forces, with U.S.-led coalition support, launched an assault on ISIS' final stronghold in Iraq, the town of al Qaim on the Syrian border. Around 1,500 militants are believed to be present in the region.

Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [October 2, 2017](#): Members of an ISIS sleeper cell were arrested by Russian security services in Moscow. The cell was allegedly planning a series of high-profile attacks, according to Russian officials.
- ◆ [October 4, 2017](#): ISIS militants killed four and wounded 40 in Misrata, Libya. The attackers used explosives to breach the perimeter of a court complex, before opening fire on civilians in the area.

- ◆ [October 5, 2017](#): An ISIS cell was planning a suicide attack on the defense ministry in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, according to Saudi government officials. While the plot was being foiled, two members of cell were killed and 5 others were arrested.

AL QAEDA

Operations Against Al Qaeda

- ◆ [October 8, 2017](#): A drone strike in western Yemen killed five Al Qaeda militants. The men were struck while driving in a vehicle. Neither the terrorist group nor the U.S. has commented on the strike.

Recent Al Qaeda Attacks

- ◆ [October 23, 2017](#): Al Qaeda militants launched an attack on a military checkpoint in southern Yemen, killing four and wounding 10. Four militants wearing explosive vests exited a truck before the driver detonated the explosive-laden vehicle. All of the attackers were killed in the attack.

BOKO HARAM

Operations Against Boko Haram

- ◆ [October 9, 2017](#): Nigerian officials began a mass trial of 1,600 individuals suspected of having ties to Boko Haram. The trial is taking place behind closed doors for security reasons. Nigeria's Ministry of Justice has stated that another 651 people suspected of having ties to the terrorist group are being held in Maiduguri awaiting trial.

Recent Boko Haram Attacks

- ◆ [October 22, 2017](#): A suicide bomber killed 13 and wounded five in Maiduguri, Nigeria. The attack targeted a refugee camp for 2 million internally displaced people, many of whom have been victimized by the terrorist group.

TALIBAN

Recent Taliban Attacks

- ◆ [October 19, 2017](#): Taliban militants killed at least 58 Afghan security personnel in a series of coordinated attacks across the country. The bulk of the casualties came from an attack on an army camp in Kandahar, which left at least 43 dead.

Policemen in Balkh province, and police posts in Farah province, were also targeted by the militants.

- ◆ [October 23, 2017](#): Taliban militants attacked a security post, killing four policemen and wounding two. The terrorists were defeated by security services, and suffered heavy losses, according to military officials.

AL-SHABAAB

Recent Non-Western al-Shabaab Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [October 10, 2017](#): Al Shabaab gunmen attacked civilians and police escorts in Ukunda, Kenya. Gunmen opened fire on a vehicle carrying Technical University of Mombasa employees and policemen. Two women, employees of the university, were killed in the attack.
- ◆ [October 14, 2017](#): Al Shabaab detonated a truck bomb on a busy road in Mogadishu after crashing through a barrier. The explosion killed 358 and wounded hundreds more. Another bomb, hidden in a car, was detonated about an hour later. The driver of the car was arrested by Somali security services.

SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS

- ◆ [October 3, 2017](#): Five unnamed men were arrested in connection to explosive devices found in an affluent neighborhood in Paris, France. After a resident called the police, gas canisters, explosive materials, and a detonator were discovered in an apartment building.
- ◆ [October 20, 2017](#): Two mosques in Afghanistan were targeted by militants during the evening prayer. In Kabul, a gunman entered a mosque and opened fire before detonating an explosive device, killing 39. To the west, in the Ghor district, another attack left 20 people dead.
- ◆ [October 21, 2017](#): A suicide bomber in Kabul targeted a minibus carrying students from the military academy, leaving 14 dead.
- ◆ [October 21, 2017](#): 54 police officers were killed after being ambushed during a raid on a militant compound in Wahat al-Bahriya, Egypt. Officials suspect that the ambush was carefully planned, and that the security services were lured to the area via false intelligence. No group has claimed responsibility, although the attack bears similarities to others launched by both ISIS and Hasm, an Egypt-based Islamist militant group.
- ◆ [October 25, 2017](#): An unnamed 40 year old man was arrested by German security services in Berlin during a series of raids. The man was in possession of both

handguns and rifles, and several cases of ammunition. The man was known to authorities, and is connected to an Islamist extremist network.

- ◆ [October 31, 2017](#): A 19-year-old, Syrian man identified only as Yamen A. was arrested by authorities in Germany for planning an “Islamist-motivated attack.” The suspect has been planning an explosives attack since July, and had procured the materials to successfully carry one out. He appears to have been acting alone.