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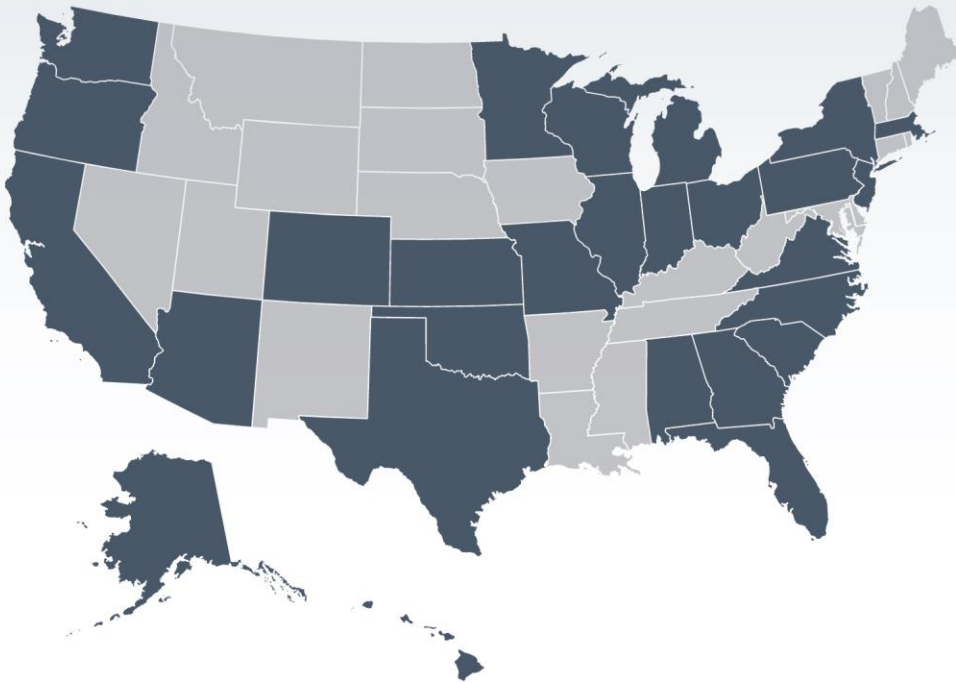
December 2018 Terror Threat Snapshot

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TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

DECEMBER 2018

THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

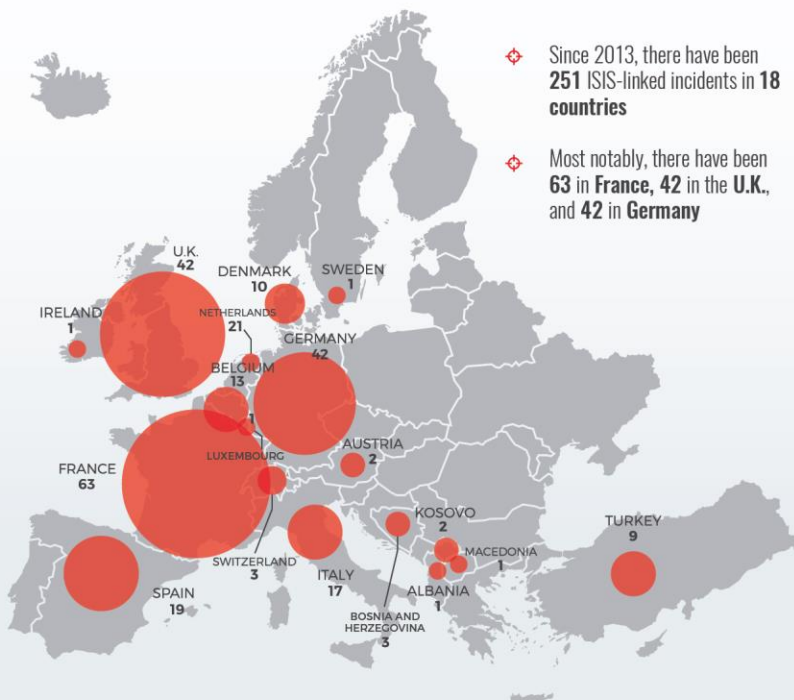


Since 2013, there have been

**161 HOMEGROWN
JIHADIST CASES IN
30 STATES FOR...**

- ✓ PLOTS TO ATTACK
- ✓ OVERSEAS TRAVEL
- ✓ FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- ✓ LYING TO AUTHORITIES
- ✓ WEAPONS CHARGES

ISIS' TERROR CAMPAIGN IN EUROPE



ISIS-LINKED PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST SINCE 2013



84 cases where ISIS used or attempted to build or use **EXPLOSIVES**



60 cases where ISIS used an **EDGED WEAPON**



23 cases where ISIS used a **VEHICLE** as a 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.

KEY POINTS¹

- ◆ [November 13, 2018](#): Amor M. Ftouhi, 51, of Quebec, Canada, who in June 2017 traveled from Canada to the U.S. and attacked a police officer at an airport in Flint, Michigan, was found guilty of three separate charges, including terrorism transcending national boundaries. Ftouhi described himself as a “soldier of Allah” and stated that he subscribed to Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden’s ideology.
- ◆ [November 1, 2018](#): Dias Muratovich Kadyrbayev, 24, a citizen of Kazakhstan, was deported by ICE officials following his release from prison for his role in the Boston Bombings. Kadyrbayev was charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice for removing and disposing of incriminatory items from Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s dorm room.
- ◆ The U.S.-backed SDF has [resumed its offensive against ISIS](#), after a pause in ground operations. During this time airstrikes from the coalition continued. To the east, the [Iraqi government deployed](#) approximately 10,000 troops supported by 20,000 PMF troops to secure the Iraqi-Syrian border and prevent ISIS fighters from entering the country. This announcement came shortly before a [UN report](#) outlining the horrific details of 200 mass gravesites in Iraqi towns and cities formerly controlled by ISIS.
- ◆ [November 7, 2018](#): Ahmed Alahmedalabdoklah, 41, of Syria, was sentenced to life plus 30 years in prison for conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, conspiring to destroy U.S. property by means of explosive, and conspiracy to possess a destructive device. Alahmedalabdoklah worked as a bomb-maker between 2005 and 2010 in Iraq for the 1920 Revolutions Brigade, an insurgent group that targeted U.S. military personnel. He moved to China to continue his work, after a massive weapons cache known as the Omar Cache was discovered with his DNA. He was detained in Turkey in 2011 and extradited to the U.S. in 2014.
- ◆ The U.S. Department of State [designated](#) Jawad Nasrallah, the son of Hezbollah’s leader; [Hajji ‘Abd al-Nasir](#), a senior member of ISIS; and Al-Mujahidin Brigades, a military organization operating in Palestine, as Specially Designated Global Terrorists. This designation imposes sanctions on them, blocks all property and interests subject to U.S. jurisdiction, and prohibits U.S. entities from engaging in business.

HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 161 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, incidents included in this report span November 1 through November 30. All figures are based on open-source and government data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

Recent Developments

- ◆ [November 2, 2018](#): Tnuza Jamal Hassan, 20, who in February 2017 was charged with attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and arson, was ruled fit to stand trial. Hassan lit several fires at St. Catherine's University in St. Paul, Minnesota and wrote a letter encouraging fellow Muslims to join terrorist organizations including Al Qaeda and Al Shabaab. Her trial is expected to go forward.
- ◆ [November 6, 2018](#): Akayed Ullah, 28, a lawful permanent resident from Bangladesh living in Brooklyn, New York, was convicted of detonating an IED at the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal on behalf ISIS. He could face life in prison, and sentencing is scheduled for April 5, 2019.
- ◆ [November 14, 2018](#): Adam Raishani, 32, of the Bronx, New York, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide and conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. In 2015 Raishani helped another man travel to join the terrorist group, and in 2017 he attempted to do the same. Raishani faces up to 25 years in prison, and sentencing is scheduled for March 8, 2019.
- ◆ [November 26, 2018](#): Zoobia Shahnaz, 27, of Brentwood, New York, pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS. Shahnaz faces up to 20 years in prison for committing fraud to send over \$150,000 to fronts for ISIS. She also intended to travel to join ISIS in Syria but was arrested at JFK airport.

ISIS IN THE WEST

Recent Developments

- ◆ [November 7, 2018](#): Samir K., 33, a German-Algerian dual citizen, was indicted for spreading ISIS propaganda in Germany. He created multiple accounts on several social media platforms and group messaging applications and shared the login details with German-speaking ISIS militants, effectively creating a German language media hub for ISIS.
- ◆ [November 9, 2018](#): Hassan Khalif Shire Ali, 30, who moved to Melbourne, Australia from Somalia in the 1990s, attacked police officers and civilians in Melbourne. He ignited a car loaded with gas canisters, before exiting the vehicle and attacking passersby with a knife. He killed one and wounded two, before being shot and killed by police. ISIS claimed the attack but offered no evidence to support the claim.
- ◆ [November 12, 2018](#): The trial for Dasbar W., 29, of Germany, who in December 2017 was arrested for plotting a vehicle attack on an ice skating rink in Stuttgart, has begun. Despite multiple pieces of evidence, including travel to ISIS-held regions of Iraq in 2015 and 2016, Dasbar claims to sympathize with the Peshmerga. His trial is expected to last at least a year.
- ◆ [November 15, 2018](#): Derya O., 26, was charged with being a member of ISIS by prosecutors in Germany. She is alleged to have traveled to join the group in February 2014, married a fighter, received small-arms training, and possessed an explosive belt. She traveled to Germany via Turkey in February 2017.

- ◆ [November 20, 2018](#): Hanifi Halis, 21, Samed Eriklioglu, 26, and Ertunc Eriklioglu, 30, all of Melbourne, Australia, were arrested and charged with planning an ISIS-style attack on a crowded, public place. Australian security services had 17,000 phone calls, 10,500 text messages, and 7,800 of recordings relevant to their investigation. No location had been finalized, but the men were attempting to acquire firearms.
- ◆ [November 21, 2018](#): Issam Elsayed Elsayed Abouelayem Shalabi, 22, an Egyptian man living in Italy, was arrested by Italian authorities for supporting ISIS and planning to travel and fight for them.
- ◆ [November 23, 2018](#): An unidentified man was arrested in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina for his role in the 2011 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, as well as having fought for ISIS and al Nusra Front in Syria. He is suspected of attempting to form a terrorist cell in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- ◆ [November 23, 2018](#): Milad Atai, 22, of New South Wales, Australia, was sentenced to 38 years in prison for his role in the 2015 shooting of police accountant Curtis Cheng by Farhad Jabar and assisting Jabar's sister in reaching Syria to join ISIS. Atai encouraged Jabar to commit the attack, and provided financial and operational assistance to Jabar's sister.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

ISIS

Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [November 8, 2018](#): An Egyptian court sentenced 65 suspected ISIS members to prison for sentences ranging from five years to life, for attempting to establish a cell. The individuals swore allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2017 and were arrested the same year. The cell was intended to be established in southern Egypt.
- ◆ [November 20, 2018](#): Nur Supian, Araji Samindih, and Umad Harun, all of the Philippines, were convicted of recruiting members to join the ISIS-aligned Maute Group during the terrorist group's siege of Marawi City, Phillipines in 2017. Supian was sentenced to 40 years in prison, Samindih received eight years and a day, and Harun was sentenced to 14 years, eight months, and a day.

Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [November 2, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on a group of Christians in Minya, Egypt, which left six dead and 18 wounded. The group of Coptic Christians were departing a baptism and were ambushed by gunmen. The attack represents the most serious attack on minorities in Egypt in over a year.
- ◆ [November 24, 2018](#): ISIS militants attacked a police station in Tazirbu, Libya, killing eight civilians and wounding nine more. Three individuals were abducted during the attack and nine more are still missing.

BOKO HARAM

Recent Boko Haram Attacks

- ◆ [November 1, 2018](#): Militants attacked four villages near Maiduguri, Nigeria, killing 15 and torching homes. The terrorists rode from village to village in four vehicles, lighting buildings on fire and firing on civilians as they went.
- ◆ [November 22, 2018](#): Militants launched an attack on an army base in Borno State, Nigeria, leaving over 100 Nigerian soldiers dead. The surviving soldiers fled the base, leaving behind weapons, tanks, and armor.
- ◆ [November 24, 2018](#): Boko Haram militants kidnapped 18 girls from two villages in Nigeria.

TALIBAN

Operations Against the Taliban

- ◆ [November 2, 2018](#): Maulana Samiul Haq, known as the “Father of the Taliban,” was assassinated in his home in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. A single, unidentified individual is believed to have entered Haq’s bedroom and stabbed him with a knife. He was found by his guard and taken to a hospital where he died. He taught a radical form of Islam at a madrasah to several prominent Taliban members, including Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Recent Taliban Attacks

- ◆ [November 28, 2018](#): A suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne explosive outside a British security compound near Kabul, Afghanistan, killing at least 10 people and injuring 19. The Taliban claimed the attack and described the British compound as “an important base.”

AL QAEDA

Operations Against Al Qaeda

- ◆ [November 23, 2018](#): French military forces in Mali have killed at least 30 Al Qaeda-linked militants, potentially including the offshoot group’s leader. The attack on terrorist forces combined manned and unmanned airstrikes with helicopter and ground forces, dealing a significant blow to the militant group.

AL-SHABAAB

Operations Against Al-Shabaab

- ◆ The U.S. [continued to support](#) the Federal Government of Somalia’s efforts against the terrorist group by launching seven airstrikes throughout the month, killing 47 militants.

Recent Al-Shabaab Attacks

- ◆ [November 10, 2018](#): Militants detonated four car bombs outside a hotel in Mogadishu, Somalia killing 53 and wounding over 100. Three of the explosions targeted civilians at

the hotel and in the surrounding area, while the fourth was detonated after medical services arrived to treat victims.

- ◆ [November 26, 2018](#): A suicide bomber detonated his vehicle-borne explosive near a religious center in central Somalia, before gunmen stormed the building, killing the cleric they were targeting and 14 others.

SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS

- ◆ [November 9, 2018](#): Samer Shehadeh, an imam formerly based in Prague, Czech Republic, arrived in Prague to stand trial following his arrest and extradition from Jordan. Shehadeh has waived his right to contest the charges and will remain in custody until his trial. He faces up to 15 years in prison for supporting, promoting, and financing terrorism during his time as a preacher in Prague.
- ◆ [November 20, 2018](#): A suicide bomber attacked a group of Islamic religious scholars in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing more than 50 and wounding more than 80. The scholars were gathered in a banquet hall located near the airport to commemorate the anniversary of Mohammad's birth. The Taliban issued a statement claiming that they had nothing to do with the attack. ISIS has not claimed responsibility.
- ◆ [November 21, 2018](#): Mehmet Veysi Dolasan and two unidentified individuals were sentenced to life in prison for their role in the 2016 bombing in Ankara, Turkey. The three were part of 55 who were tried, 47 in absentia, for the attack. The bombing killed 36 and wounded 344 and was carried out on behalf of the Kurdistan Workers' Party offshoot called the Kurdistan Freedom Hawks.