



THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES

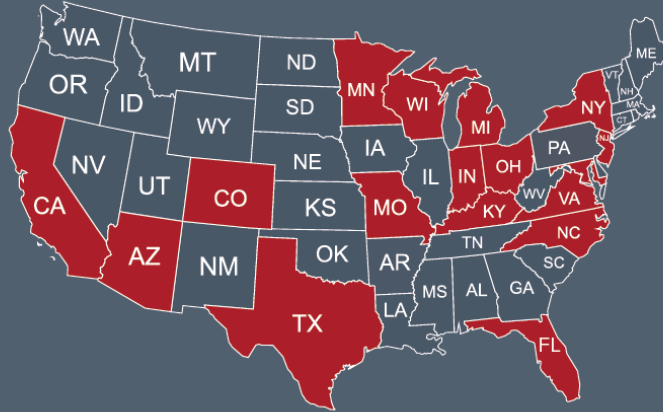
In the past 12 months...

**36 HOMEGROWN JIHADIST
CASES** in...

18 STATES for...

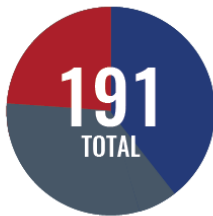
California, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Virginia, New York, Florida, Indiana, Arizona, North Carolina, Kentucky, New Jersey, Maryland, Wisconsin, Ohio, Colorado, District of Columbia, Texas

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



TOTAL ISIS-LINKED PLOTS TO ATTACK THE WEST

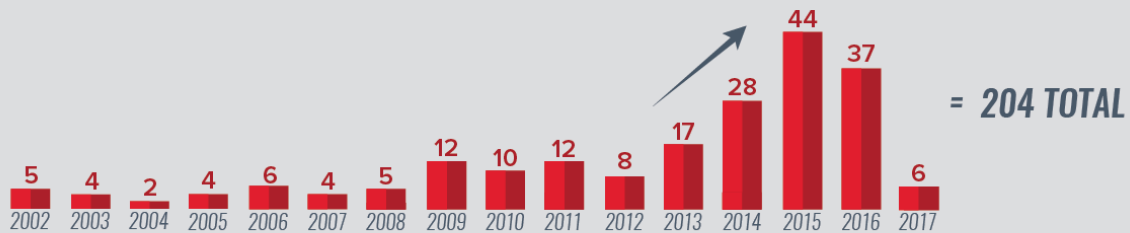
(2013 - Present)



- **78** IN EUROPE
- **37** IN THE U.S.
- **76** TARGETING WESTERNERS OUTSIDE U.S./EUROPE

See note in report regarding methodology changes

HOMEGROWN JIHADIST CASES IN AMERICA SINCE 9/11



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This document is produced by the Majority Staff of the House Homeland Security Committee. It is based on information culled from open source materials, including media reports, publicly available government statements, and nongovernmental assessments.



KEY POINTS

- ◆ March was the sixth anniversary of the Syrian civil war. The ISIS threat still disseminates from the country, as the group clings to control of its self-declared caliphate in the face of the Syrian Democratic Forces' offensive to expel it.
- ◆ Another anniversary was marked with bloodshed as an ISIS-inspired attack on our British allies in the heart of London left one American and three Britons dead. One year after the heinous ISIS attacks were carried out in Brussels, the group claimed a car and knife attack that took place on Westminster Bridge and outside the British Parliament, a bustling, tourist-filled part of town and the seat of the British government.
- ◆ A new Al Qaeda merger in the Islamic Maghreb establishing Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin dangerously emboldens the Al Qaeda faction by strengthening the group's coordination and bandwidth in the region.
- ◆ Afghanistan was rocked again in March by a deadly ISIS Khorasan raid on a military hospital along with multiple attacks by Taliban insurgents.

HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of Homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue rise as US Persons radicalize. Since the September 11 attacks, there have been 204 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States, 36 of which occurred in the last 12 months.¹

Recent Developments

- ◆ [March 5, 2017](#): Said Azzam Mohamad Rahim was charged with six counts of making false statements during a [terrorism investigation](#) in Dallas, Texas this month. According to the indictment, Rahim made [false statements](#) regarding his support for ISIS and terrorist activity.
- ◆ [March 3, 2017](#): Elvis Redzepagic, 26, was [arrested](#) for attempting to provide material support and resources to ISIS. He allegedly attempted to enter Syria to [join](#) either ISIS or Al-Nusra Front on two separate occasions—he traveled to Turkey with the intention to cross into Syria in July 2015 and, when unable to enter, he traveled to Jordan in August 2016. Jordanian authorities [stopped](#) Redzepagic and he was deported. Redzepagic also posted [support](#) for jihad online, and had supposedly been in contact with an individual he believed to be a battalion commander fighting in Syria.

¹ These figures are based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.



ISIS TERROR PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST

- ◆ Since the group's inception in 2013, there have been at least 191 ISIS-linked plots or attacks against Western targets.² In the first three months of 2017, there have been 15 known plots. Two plots occurred in March, one of which left an [American](#) tourist dead while on vacation in London.³

Recent Developments

- ◆ [March 22, 2017](#): On the first anniversary of the Brussels attack, Khalid Masood, a 52-year-old British citizen, [attacked](#) in London's Westminster, [killing](#) 3 pedestrians and a Metropolitan Police Constable guarding the parliament, and [wounding](#) 50. The attacker was shot dead at the scene. Masood had previously been [convicted](#) of causing grievous bodily harm, possession of offensive weapons along with public order offenses. He was [known](#) to police and was living in the West Midlands at the time of the attack.
- ◆ [March 11, 2017](#): In Essen, Germany, a large shopping mall was closed by Police due to security agencies warning of a possible ISIS-linked attack. Two men were questioned regarding the threat. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere announced that a potential attack was stopped, [saying](#), "There were indications or orders from someone who had traveled to the region (Syria) from Germany." According to [security sources](#), an apparent call for violence was sent from a German ISIS loyalist currently based in an ISIS-controlled area.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

ISIS

Operations Against ISIS Territory

- ◆ In the joint [readout](#) of President Donald Trump's first in-person [meeting](#) with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on March 20, 2017, the leaders stated their confidence that [ISIS](#) will be defeated and pledged their pursuit of a continued partnership to fight terrorism.
- ◆ The U.S. military is set to [deploy](#) 275 soldiers to support American troops aiding the Iraqi army's fight against ISIS in Mosul.

² Data recently collected by the Committee on previous ISIS terror claims has increased the total number to 191, despite there only being two ISIS-linked plots/attacks on the West in March.

³ These figures are based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.



Notable ISIS Members Targeted

- ◆ [March 31, 2017](#): According to an Iraqi military intelligence spokesman, Ayad al-Jumaili, a [deputy](#) of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was killed in an Iraqi airstrike along with other ISIS commanders near the country's border with Syria. The information was not confirmed by the U.S-led coalition against the Islamic State at the time the death was reported.
- ◆ [March 18, 2017](#): The Egyptian military reported the death of an ISIS Sinai branch leader Salem Salmy al-Hamadeen, also known as [Abu Anas al-Ansari](#), in an air raid. ISIS' Sinai Province announced the death in its weekly newsletter, claiming al-Ansari was killed by shrapnel from a missile that struck next to him. Al-Ansari was a [founder](#) of the ISIS branch which was formerly called Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis.
- ◆ [March 16, 2017](#): The head of ISIS' hacking group that calls itself the United Cyber Caliphate (UCC), [Osed Agha](#), was reportedly killed in a drone strike in the group's de-facto capital of Raqqa. The [UCC](#) is known for its posting of "kill lists" which provide names and addresses of American citizens and has claimed several Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks along with hundreds of social media accounts. A video [posted](#) March 16, 2017 on Telegram spoke of Agha's death.
- ◆ [March 14, 2017](#): In operations in the Bab al-Tob district during the battle for Mosul, Iraqi federal police killed [Abu Abdul Rahman al-Ansary](#), military commander of Mosul's Old City.

Recent Non-Western ISIS Attacks

- ◆ [March 28, 2017](#): A video posted Telegram displayed the [beheading](#) of two men by ISIS' branch in the Sinai Peninsula. The video showed [elderly men](#) in orange jumpsuits beheaded in the desert and another man read what he claims to be a verdict from a Sharia court. The man [condemns](#) those killed of "apostasy, sorcery, claiming the ability to tell the future, and leading people to polytheism."
- ◆ [March 24, 2017](#): ISIS claimed an attack on Russian troops in [Chechnya](#) as gunmen killed six soldiers. The militants [stormed](#) a branch of the newly established National Guard but were unable to enter the base as they were fired upon by a group of Russian soldiers.
- ◆ [March 24, 2017](#): Near Bangladesh's international airport, a man identified by ISIS as Abu Mohammed al-Bengali [detonated](#) a bomb in front of a police checkpoint. ISIS [claimed](#) responsibility for the attack, saying it killed many officers and wounded others, but authorities have not confirmed these statements.
- ◆ [March 16, 2017](#): ISIS-aligned Boko Haram extremists killed many soldiers in an attack on a [military base](#) in Nigeria's Borno State, according to the state's Deputy Governor Usman



Mamman Durkwa who said a specific death toll could not be provided but the hospital had been [looted](#) of medicine. The information [contradicted](#) claims that soldiers in the town had repelled the attack as noted by spokesman for the Nigerian Army Sani Kukasheka Usman. Boko Haram's insurgency [originated](#) in Borno State.

- ◆ [March 15, 2017](#): Traveling home from a graduation ceremony at a local religious school, three Shi'ite elders were [killed](#) by the Islamic State in Afghanistan.
- ◆ [March 15, 2017](#): At least 31 people were killed in Damascus as ISIS militants carried out [two suicide attacks](#). Both a popular restaurant in the al-Rabweh area and a courthouse in central Damascus were [targeted](#) by the group, who claimed responsibility for the attack in the release of its weekly online publication, al-Nabaa.
- ◆ In its own attempt to create an Islamic State, Boko Haram is responsible for the deaths of [15,000 people](#) and has displaced over two million. In a March 14 [video](#), the first online video [posted](#) by the group in two years, Boko Haram purportedly killed three men they claimed to be spies. The three murdered were dressed in orange jumpsuits, as [masked men](#) decapitated one and the remaining two men were shot.
- ◆ [March 8, 2017](#): In an attack on a military hospital in [Kabul](#), five ISIS Khorasan [militants](#) killed at least 50 people, including both hospital staff and patients. Using bombs, grenades and guns ISIS militants disguised as doctors attacked the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital, a facility for wounded soldiers located across the road from the [U.S. Embassy](#). After [hours](#) of fighting, control of the hospital was regained by government troops.

AL QAEDA

Former Deputy Director of the CIA [Michael Morrell](#) referenced an expected growing threat to U.S. airports from both ISIS and Al Qaeda due to the Middle East and Asia's instability. As energy has recently been directed toward defeating ISIS, Morrell spoke of the "[rebound](#)" of Al Qaeda while focus was elsewhere. Noting the [potential](#) of Al-Qaeda and ISIS-inspired insiders within the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), he urged that TSA must remain alert as symbols of the modern world are targeted by these extremists, [calling](#) airports the "center of that target zone."

Notable Al Qaeda Members Targeted

- ◆ [March 28, 2017](#): In a raid on the southeastern Hadramawt region, Yemeni forces captured [Abu Ali al-Sayari](#), a senior Al Qaeda leader who was found hiding. Three others were detained and two were killed. [Al-Sayari](#) was a Saudi national of Yemeni origins.
- ◆ [March 19, 2017](#): An airstrike carried out by the U.S. in Paktika Province, Afghanistan [killed](#) Qari Yasin, the Al Qaeda leader who plotted, among other attacks, the 2008 bombing of the Marriot Hotel in Islamabad that claimed the lives of two American service members.



- ◆ [March 3, 2017](#): Another AQAP operative who served as Usayd al Adani's communications intermediary, [Harith al Waqri](#), was killed in an airstrike in Yemen.
- ◆ [March 2, 2017](#): [Yasir al Silmi](#), an Al Qaeda operative and former detainee held at Guantanamo from [2002 to 2009](#), was killed in a U.S. airstrike. [Reporting](#) the deaths a few days later on March 6, Navy Captain Jeff Davis noted the U.S., with the partnership of the Yemeni government, had carried out 5 strikes in Yemen's Abyan Governate in the previous five nights. [Usayd al Adani](#), an AQAP explosives expert was killed in the same strike.

Recent Al Qaeda Attacks

Al Shabaab

- ◆ [March 21, 2017](#): An explosion [claimed](#) by Al Shabaab killed 10 and injured at least 15 in Mogadishu, Somalia when an explosive-laden vehicle detonated approximately 150 meters from the presidential palace. The bombing marks the continuation of a trend of attacks at checkpoints in Somalia, and it was carried out only hours after the [appointment](#) of the Prime Minister's new cabinet.
- ◆ [March 13, 2017](#): Six people were killed in an [explosion](#) caused by two car bombs in Mogadishu. The attack was claimed by Al Shabaab. According to witnesses, the first bomb detonated outside of a hotel frequented by government officials and businessmen. A military base in Mogadishu was the [target](#) of the second attack which left one dead.

Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin

- ◆ Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb's Sahara branch recently [merged](#) with Ansar Dine, Al Murabitoon, and Katibat Macina (also known as the Macina Liberation Front) to form Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, a move to which Al Qaeda central supposedly lent its support. Undoubtedly a [threat](#) to the Sahel, this merger bolsters Al Qaeda's presence and strengthens its coordination in the region.
- ◆ [March 5, 2017](#): In what is reportedly Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin first assault as a newly formed group, 11 Malian soldiers were [killed](#) in an attack on a military camp in Boulikessi which was [claimed by the group](#). Five others were wounded.

Tahrir al-Sham

- ◆ [March 11, 2017](#): Tahrir al-Sham [claimed](#) responsibility for the death of dozens in a double suicide bomb in Damascus, Syria. [According](#) to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Iraqi Shi'ite Muslim pilgrims were killed along with at least 20 pro-government fighters.



SELECT ATTACKS, OTHER ISLAMIST TERROR GROUPS

- ◆ [March 20, 2017](#): The Taliban claimed an [attack](#) that killed six members of an Afghan intelligence unit and wounded seven. The assault [occurred](#) in the country's southern Helmand province, near its provincial capital Lashkar Gah.
- ◆ [March 17, 2017](#): An Afghan National Army soldier was killed, and seven soldiers were wounded in an [assault](#) on a military base in southeast Afghanistan. The attack was [claimed](#) by Taliban spokesman Zabehullah Mujahid.
- ◆ [March 1, 2017](#): Twenty-three people were killed and 106 wounded when the Taliban [detonated](#) two bombs in succession in Kabul, one in the southwestern part of the city and one in the east close to the National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's intelligence agency. According to the head of Kabul's police criminal investigations division, police headquarters and a recruitment center for the Afghan National Army were attacked.