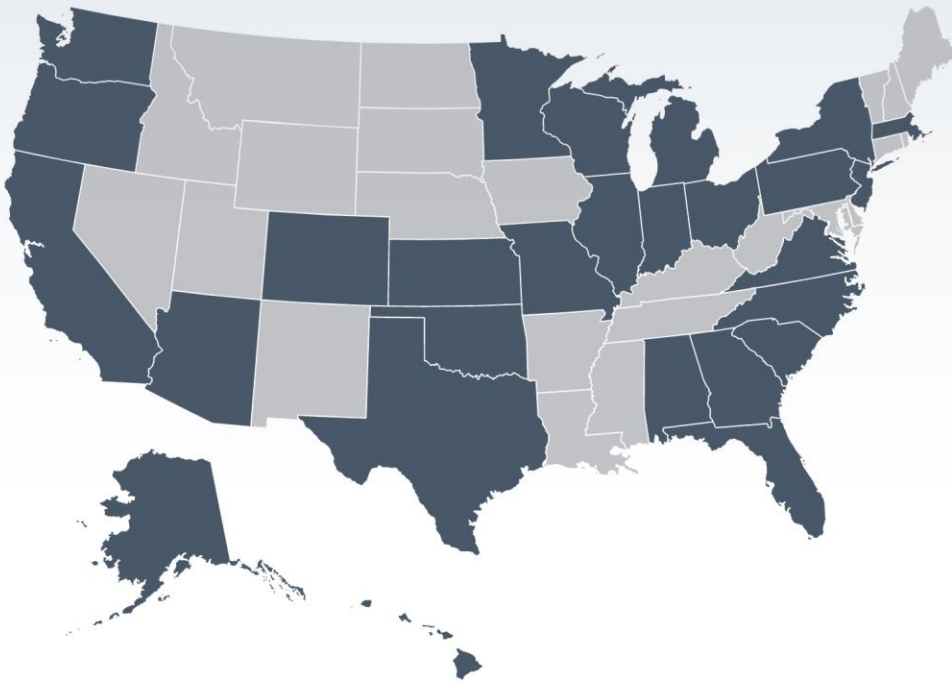


TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

JUNE 2018

THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

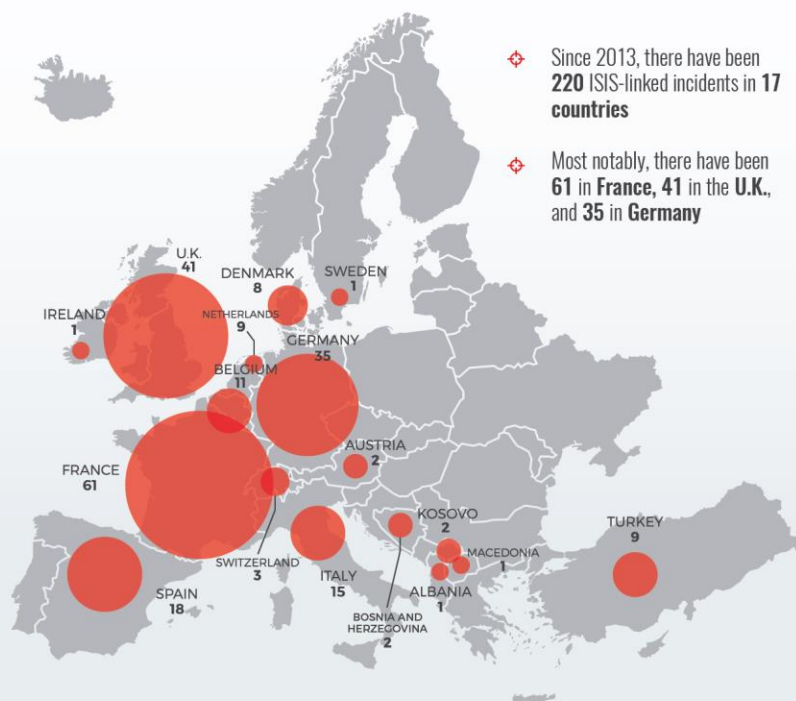


Since 2013, there have been

**153 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



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



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



21 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

- ◆ May 22 marks one year since [the devastating Manchester Arena bombing](#) which left 22 dead and 116 injured.
- ◆ Rear Admiral Brian Hendrickson, Director, Network Engagement Team, U.S. Southern Command, [expressed his concern](#) about terrorists utilizing existing smuggling routes on the border between the U.S. and Mexico, “The corrosive activities pose a threat to the stability of our partners and to our national security.” He continued, “The region is also home to networks that specialize in smuggling illegal immigrants from places like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq, all places where terrorist organizations like al-Shabab, ISIS, al-Qaeda and their affiliates operate...Some of these people have ties to terrorism and some have intentions to conduct attacks in the homeland.” Thomas Homan, Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, [echoed the sentiment](#) saying, “Panama has a great program down there. People that were known terrorists had been turned around in Panama and sent back before reaching our shores.”
- ◆ France’s leading counterterrorism prosecutor has issued a statement warning of the risk posed by 40 radicalized prisoners [who are due to be released](#) over the next 18 months. There are 20 scheduled for release in 2018, and another 20 in 2019. Authorities remain concerned over prison radicalization, and [have taken bold steps to reduce the issue](#).
- ◆ The World Cup begins on June 14 in Russia, and ISIS has continued its [barrage of threats](#) to attack the event. Russian authorities have reportedly foiled several plots throughout the year, most recently on [May 11](#) when security services arrested 20 from western Siberia who had stockpiled weapons near Moscow. The men were reported to be members of ISIS, and were plotting an attack on the Victory Day memorial march in Moscow.
- ◆ [May 4, 2018](#): Khaled Khayat, 49, and Mahmoud Khayat, 32, of Sydney, Australia, who in July 2017 were arrested for plotting to detonate an explosive hidden in a meat grinder aboard a flight from Sydney to Abu Dhabi, have pleaded not guilty. The brothers are expected to stand trial in the Sydney Supreme Court in March 2019.
- ◆ The Department of Treasury leveled a series of sanctions throughout the month targeting Iran’s terror funding efforts. This includes designating [five individuals](#) associated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Qods Force (IRGC-QF) who provided ballistic missile assistance to the Houthi rebels in Yemen, enabling them to launch missiles into Saudi Arabia targeting cities and oil infrastructure. were also sanctioned for their part in [facilitating the transfer of millions dollars](#) from IRGC-QF to Hezbollah, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.

HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 153 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

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

Recent Developments

- ◆ [May 1, 2018](#): Matin Azizi-Yarand, 17, of Plano, Texas, was arrested for making a terroristic threat. Azizi-Yarand was inspired by ISIS propaganda, and planned to carry out an attack on Stonebriar Centre mall in Frisco, Texas.
- ◆ [May 1, 2018](#): Samuel Rahamin Topaz, 24, of Fort Lee, New Jersey, was sentenced to eight years in prison for conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. Topaz admitted that in 2015 he planned to travel overseas to join ISIS, and met with several members of the organization to discuss his plans to join.
- ◆ [May 16, 2018](#): Gregory Hubbard, 54, of West Palm Beach, Florida; Dayne Antani Christian, 33, of Lake Park, Florida; and Darren Arness Jackson, 53, of West Palm Beach, Florida, were sentenced to prison for conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. Hubbard was sentenced to 12 years, Christian was sentenced to eight years, and Jackson was sentenced to four years.
- ◆ [May 21, 2018](#): Alexander Ciccolo, 25, of Adams, Massachusetts, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS, attempting to use weapons of mass destruction, and being a convicted person in possession of firearms. In 2015 Ciccolo plotted to use explosives and firearms to attack a college campus, police station, and other public places, but was arrested before he could carry out the attacks. He faces 20 years in prison.
- ◆ [May 23, 2018](#): Akram Musleh of Brownsburg, Indiana, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS. In May 2016 Musleh was arrested at a bus station attempting to travel to New York, and from there to Morocco to join ISIS. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

ISIS IN THE WEST

Recent Developments

- ◆ [May 2, 2018](#): Mohammed Zahir Khan, 40, of Sunderland, U.K., was sentenced to four and-a-half years for encouraging acts of terror. Khan posted many times on various social media counts about his support for ISIS and his disdain for the west.
- ◆ [May 3, 2018](#): Faisal A.H., 25, a Syrian man living in Germany, was arrested on suspicion of being a member of ISIS. He allegedly joined the organization in 2013, and fought against the government of Syria. He left Syria for Germany in 2014.
- ◆ [May 4, 2018](#): Naa'imur Zakariyah Rahman, 20, of London, U.K., pleaded not guilty to attempting to join ISIS and plotting to carry out an attack on Prime Minister Theresa May. Prosecutors state that he had researched joining the organization extensively, recorded a pledge of allegiance to ISIS, planned to travel to Libya on falsified documents, downloaded terrorist guides, and surveilled potential targets.
- ◆ [May 10, 2018](#): Safaar Boular, 18, widow of now-deceased ISIS fighter, Naweed Hussain, has been charged with masterminding an attack in London, U.K. with her sister, Rizlaine Boular, 21, and mother, Mina Dich, 43, while imprisoned for attempting to travel to join ISIS. Boular used code words to have her mother and sister surveil landmarks as potential targets in Westminster. Boular was arrested at Stansted Airport returning from Morocco in 2016.

- ◆ [May 12, 2018](#): Khamzat Azimov, 20, a French national born in Chechnya, attacked civilians in Paris, killing one and wounding three. Azimov used a knife to target passersby in the crowded theatre district, before being shot dead by police. He was on the “Fiche S” list, which is the French security service’s list of people who may radicalize.
- ◆ [May 17, 2018](#): Brazilian authorities have charged 11 people with planning to establish an ISIS cell in Brazil to recruit jihadists to send to Syria.
- ◆ [May 17, 2018](#): Yousif Alsyed, 18, of London, U.K., was sentenced to two years and three months in prison for preparation of terrorist acts and one year for dissemination of terrorist publications. Alsyed is the brother of Ahmed Alsyed, who in April 2018 was sentenced to four and-a-half years for the collection of information, contrary to the Terrorism Act 2000, preparation of terrorist acts, and dissemination of terrorist publications. The two planned to travel to Syria and join ISIS.
- ◆ [May 18, 2018](#): Nine Kosovo Albanians accused of plotting to attack the Israeli national soccer team on behalf of ISIS in November 2016 have been found guilty. Eight of the nine received jail sentences between one and-a-half to eight years, and the ninth received a \$2,950 fine.
- ◆ [May 18, 2018](#): French authorities have arrested an Egyptian man, identified only as Mohamed M., suspected of plotting an attack in Paris. Security services believe that he was planning to use ricin or an explosive to carry out the attack.
- ◆ [May 18, 2018](#): Talal Alameddine, 25, of Parrametta, Australia, was sentenced to 13 and-a-half years in prison for supplying the weapon used by Farhad Jabar, who in October 2015 shot and killed police accountant Curtis Cheng on behalf of ISIS.
- ◆ [May 22, 2018](#): Farooq Rashid, 43, of Bradford, U.K., was sentenced to two years in prison for possessing and sharing terrorist-related material. Rashid pleaded guilty to disseminating a terrorist publication and possessing a publication likely to be useful to a terrorist.
- ◆ [May 24, 2018](#): The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces claim that they have arrested French citizen Adrien Guihal, a senior ISIS commander involved in the Paris and Nice attacks in 2015 and 2016.
- ◆ [May 25, 2018](#): Majed A., 24, a Syrian man arrested in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany in September 2017, was charged with fighting for ISIS in 2014. He is believed to have entered Germany in 2015.
- ◆ [May 29, 2018](#): Benjamin Herman, 31, carried out an attack claimed by ISIS in Liège, Belgium. Herman approached two policewomen while they were checking parking meters, and stabbed them, before disarming one and shooting them with her service revolver. He also shot and killed a man who was in a vehicle close to where the attack took place. Herman was killed by police.
- ◆ [May 31, 2018](#): Husnain Rashid, 32, of Nelson, U.K., pleaded guilty three counts of engaging in conduct in preparation for terrorism and one count of encouraging terrorism. Rashid was arrested in September 2017 for encouraging terrorists to attack Prince George on the encrypted Telegram messaging service, accompanied by the prince’s school address. He also posted other potential targets for would-be jihadists.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

ISIS

Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [May 1, 2018](#): U.S.-led coalition forces have launched an offensive operation to eliminate the final ISIS strongholds in northeast Syria. The last two locations are in the Middle Euphrates River Valley near the Iraqi border.
- ◆ [May 6, 2018](#): The Iraqi air force carried out strikes on an ISIS commander outpost south of Deshaisha, Syria. The strikes “completely destroyed” the position, according to the Iraqi government.
- ◆ [May 11, 2018](#): The U.S.-led coalition conducted 52 airstrikes between May 4th and May 10th. The strikes, which took place in both Iraq and Syria, targeted IED manufacturing facilities, ISIS artillery, and command-and-control centers.

Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [May 2, 2018](#): ISIS militants stormed the Libyan electoral commission offices in Tripoli killing 12 and wounding seven before setting fire to the building. Two suicide bombers detonated their vests, before gunmen opened fire on civilians and security forces.
- ◆ [May 8, 2018](#): An ISIS militant attacked a checkpoint west of Libya’s largest oil port, killing two and wounding four. The attacker detonated a car bomb at the checkpoint. A second car bomb was identified and destroyed by security services.
- ◆ [May 12, 2018](#): A family of six launched a series of coordinated attacks on three Christian churches in Surabaya, Indonesia, killing 13 and wounding 40. The family used IEDs mounted on cars and motorcycles, and detonated the explosives at the gates to the churches. Authorities announced that the family was affiliated with Jemaah Ansharut Daulah, a regional ISIS-affiliate.
- ◆ [May 13, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on a government building in Jalalabad, Afghanistan which left 15 dead and 42 wounded. Militants detonated a car bomb at the entrance to the state accounts office, before six attackers entered with guns and RPGs. Security forces responded quickly, and killed all of the attackers following an extended gun battle.
- ◆ [May 20, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on an Orthodox church in Grozny, Chechnya, which left three dead.

AL QAEDA

Operations Against Al Qaeda

- ◆ [May 10, 2018](#): Italy issued arrest warrants for 14 legal immigrants involved in an human smuggling network. Eleven of the men were Syrian and living in Italy, Sweden, and Hungary, and the remaining three were Moroccan. The group arranged transit for those seeking to reach Western Europe, and laundered over \$2 million, some of which was sent

to al Nusra Front as well as ISIS. Italian authorities coordinated with Swedish security services to investigate the network.

- ◆ [May 16, 2018](#): Hazrat Abbas, a senior commander in both al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent and the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan, was killed in an airstrike in Sherzad district, Afghanistan.

BOKO HARAM

Recent Boko Haram Attacks

- ◆ [May 2, 2018](#): Coordinated suicide bombings left 28 people dead in Mubi, Nigeria. The first bomb was detonated at a mosque around 1 PM and the second detonated nearby as people attempted to flee.

TALIBAN

Operations Against the Taliban

- ◆ [May 3, 2018](#): Afghan security services foiled a Taliban attack on a government-run hospital in Kabul. Seven militants were arrested after a plot to attack a hospital that treats Afghan security forces was discovered.
- ◆ [May 6, 2018](#): Afghan forces have retaken the northern province of Badakhshan, which was seized by Taliban militants a week prior. Kohistan district, which was seized by the Taliban only days prior, was also retaken by government forces.

Recent Taliban Attacks

- ◆ [May 11, 2018](#): Taliban militants attacked multiple Afghan bases in Farah province, killing more than 30 police officers. The base in Balabuluk, which has been pressured by the Taliban for months, was attacked during the night leaving 23 officers dead. A separate base was also attacked, leaving 11 dead and a large quantity of weapons and equipment stolen.

AL-SHABAAB

Recent Al-Shabaab Attacks

- ◆ [May 2, 2018](#): Militants kidnapped a German aid worker in Mogadishu, Somalia. Sonja Nientiet, a nurse working with International Committee of the Red Cross, was taken, and immediate efforts to locate her have failed.
- ◆ [May 7, 2018](#): Al-Shabaab militants killed nine Kenyan soldiers in Somalia. No details have been confirmed by Kenyan authorities, but a source within the military claimed that the soldiers had been killed by an IED.
- ◆ [May 9, 2018](#): Al-Shabaab militants attacked a khat market in Wanlaweyn, Somalia, leaving five dead and 10 wounded. The attacker used an explosive, though it is unclear whether it was a suicide bomb or a planted explosive.
- ◆ [May 22, 2018](#): An al-Shabaab suicide bomber attacked a military convoy outside Mogadishu, Somalia resulting in an unconfirmed number of deaths.

SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS

- ◆ [May 7, 2018](#): Afghan security services shot and killed a suicide bomber attempting to attack a blood donor facility. The man was wearing an explosive vest, which detonated when he was shot. No other casualties were reported.
- ◆ [May 15, 2018](#): Bahrain has revoked the citizenship of 115 people and sentenced 53 to life in prison on terror charges. Authorities tried a total of 138 individuals for “being behind a number of explosions, possession of explosives and training in the use of weapons and explosives and the attempted murder of police officers.”
- ◆ [May 18, 2018](#): Pakistani authorities claim to have foiled a major terror attack in Quetta. Five suicide bombers were planning to attack the local office of the paramilitary Frontier Corps, but were killed by security services while attempting to enter the compound.
- ◆ [May 22, 2018](#): Two bombs were detonated in Kandahar, leaving 16 dead and 38 wounded. No group has claimed responsibility.
- ◆ [May 24, 2018](#): A car bomb detonated behind the largest hotel in Benghazi, Libya, killing seven and wounding 10. No details have been released, and no group has claimed responsibility.
- ◆ [May 29, 2018](#): Anthony Pondaven, 21, of France, was arrested by Spanish authorities in San Sebastian. Pondaven escaped from a prison in Western France earlier in May, where he was jailed for theft, however he is on France’s watch list for religious radicalization.