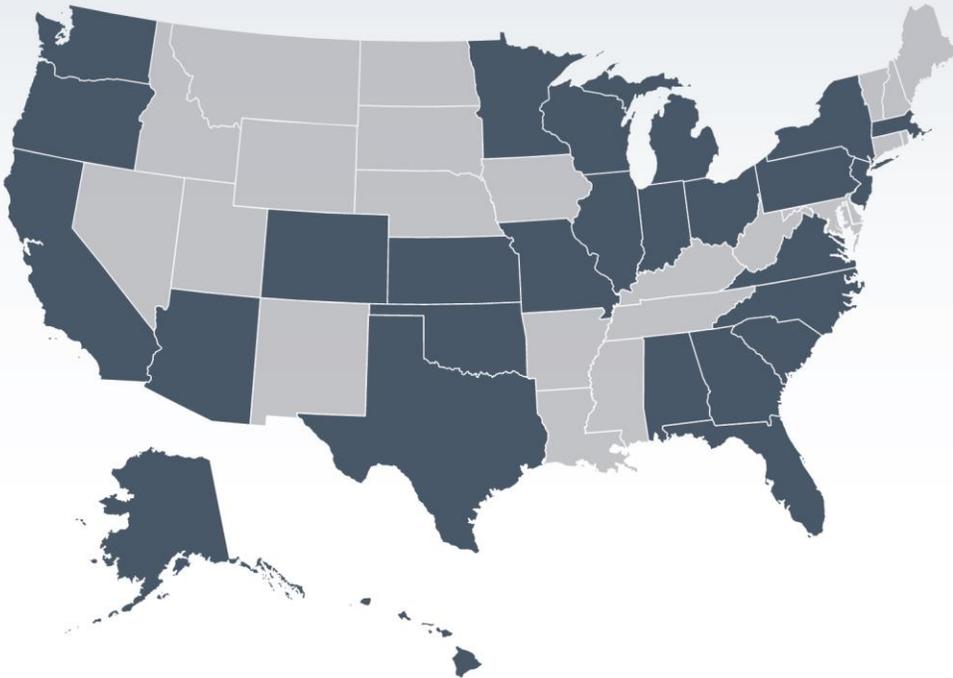


TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

NOVEMBER 2018

THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

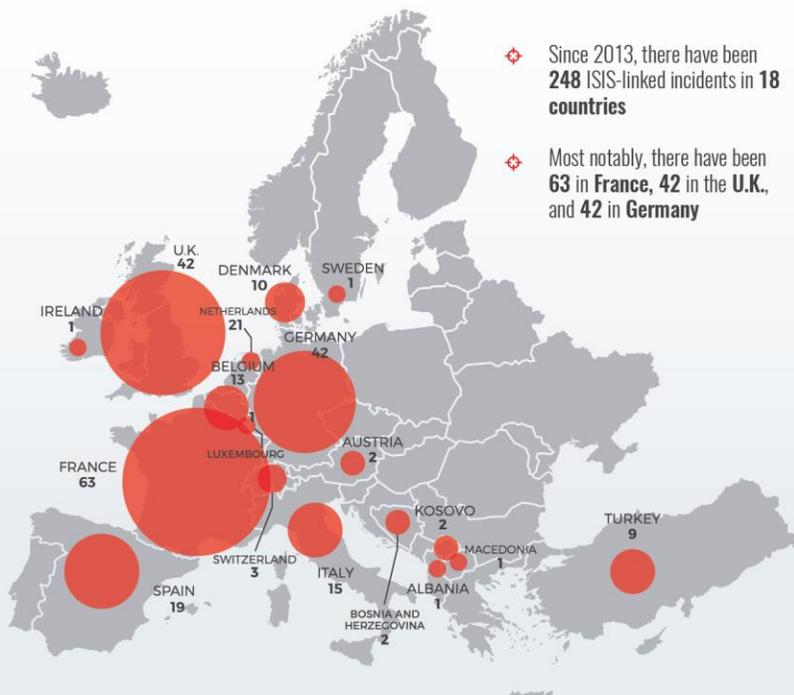


Since 2013, there have been

**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



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



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



22 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

- ◆ Five senior members of the Taliban, Mohammad Fazl, Mohammed Nabi, Khairullah Khairkhwa, Abdul Haq Wasiq, and Noorullah Noori [have all been appointed as members of the terrorist organization's political office in Qatar](#). The men, collectively known as the Taliban Five, are former inmates of the American prison at Guantanamo Bay. The men were released as part of an exchange deal to ensure the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in 2014.
- ◆ [October 23, 2018](#): Dias Muratovich Kadyrbayev, 24, a citizen of Kazakhstan, who in June 2015 was convicted of conspiracy to obstruct justice and disposing of incriminatory items from Dzhokar Tsarnaev's room, was deported to his native Kazakhstan. Kadyrbayev was sentenced to six years in prison in 2015, but was transferred to ICE custody in August 2018. His actions are considered aggravated felonies under the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- ◆ The Pakistani government [has released Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar](#), cofounder of the Afghan Taliban. Arrested in 2010, Baradar was the second most senior member of the Taliban. The release appears to have been a goodwill gesture to bring the Taliban, the Afghan government, and the U.S., as talks have been underway in Qatar.
- ◆ [October 31, 2018](#): Ahmad Suhad Ahmad, 30, an Iraqi refugee now U.S. citizen living in Tuscon, Arizona, has been charged with distributing instructions on how to make explosives. Ahmad told an undercover informant that he had learned how to make improvised explosives during the war in Iraq. He traveled to Las Vegas to demonstrate to the undercover informant how to construct the device, before he was arrested.

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.

Recent Developments

- ◆ [October 15, 2018](#): U.S. Magistrate Judge Edmund F. Brennan has ordered an extradition hearing for Omar Ameen, who in August was arrested by the FBI for being a member of ISIS and is wanted in his native country of Iraq for shooting a police officer. The extradition trial will take place on February 25, 2019.
- ◆ [October 23, 2018](#): Alaa Mohd Abusaad, 22, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was arrested for providing material support to Al Qaeda, a designated foreign terrorist organization. Abusaad sent money to Al Qaeda and showed an undercover FBI informant how to do the same. If convicted she faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.
- ◆ [October 25, 2018](#): Naser Almadaoji, 19, an Iraqi-born naturalized U.S. citizen living in Columbus, Ohio, was arrested for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Almadojji

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.

attempted to fly to Afghanistan via Kazakhstan, to join ISIS. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

- ◆ [October 26, 2018](#): Asif Ahmed Salim, 37, of Toledo, Ohio, was sentenced to six years in prison and life-time supervised release for concealment of financing terrorism. In 2009 Salim provided funds to Anwar al-Awlaki and was arrested with his brother and co-defendant Sultane Roome Salim.
- ◆ [October 28, 2018](#): Nicholas Young, a former D.C. Metro Transit Police officer who is on trial for attempting to provide material support to ISIS, has filed an appeal stating that Nazi memorabilia shown by prosecutors had “irreparably tarred” his reputation before the jury, and violated his right to a fair trial. His appeal will be heard on November 1.
- ◆ [October 30, 2018](#): Ali Charaf Damache, 53, an Irish-Algerian citizen, who in 2011 was indicted by the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists and attempted identity theft to facilitate an act of terrorism, was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Damache was extradited from Spain in 2017 following his arrest.

ISIS IN THE WEST

Recent Developments

- ◆ [October 2, 2018](#): Spanish authorities dismantled an ISIS ring spanning 17 prisons across the country. The network consisted of 25 inmates who intended to radicalize fellow prisoners. There were no concrete plans to carry out specific attacks, but rather to create a “prison front” dedicated to the terrorist organization.
- ◆ [October 5, 2018](#): Sameh Bayda and Alo-Bridget Namoa, both 21, of Sydney, Australia, were found guilty of plotting to carry out an attack on behalf of ISIS. The couple planned to detonate an IED and use a bladed weapon to attack civilians on New Year’s Eve 2015. The couple did not follow through with the attack and were arrested. Australian security services found ISIS propaganda on their phones, including selfies giving the ISIS salute. The couple will be sentenced on December 7th.
- ◆ [October 8, 2018](#): Muhammad Ali, 28, of Toronto, Canada, has been captured by SDF forces as he attempted to flee Syria to Turkey. Ali left Canada to join ISIS in 2014 and acted as a sniper. He also advocated for the terrorist organization on social media. He is currently being held by SDF forces.
- ◆ [October 10, 2018](#): Six Kosovar nationals were indicted in Pristina, Kosovo for planning to carry out attacks on behalf of ISIS. The list of targets included Orthodox churches, the Israeli national soccer team, and targets in both Belgium and France. The group also intended to create a network by recruiting suicide bombers in Kosovo.
- ◆ [October 19, 2018](#): Abdulrahman Alcharbati, 32, a Syrian-born man living in Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K., was found guilty of six counts of sharing terrorist material. Alcharbati posted 70 times on Facebook promoting ISIS. He was also found guilty of possessing a bomb-making manual.
- ◆ [October 19, 2018](#): Anjem Choudary, 51, a Muslim preacher jailed in 2016 for publicly inviting support for ISIS, has been released from Belmarsh prison in London, U.K.

Choudary was halfway through a five-and-a-half-year sentence. He has been released with strict supervision to a probation hostel, as opposed to going home. Days before his release he was added to a U.N. list of sanctioned individuals, which has frozen his assets and institutes a travel ban.

- ◆ [October 25, 2018](#): Faisal A. H., a 26-year-old Syrian man living in Germany, has gone on trial for being a member of ISIS. Prosecutors claim that Faisal fought as a member of the terrorist group in Syria, before traveling to Germany at the end of 2014.
- ◆ [October 26, 2018](#): Othman Hamdan, a Jordanian refugee living in Canada, has been ordered deported from the country. Hamdan, who in 2017 was acquitted of terrorism charges, was ruled to be a danger to the security of Canada by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. He strongly advocated on behalf of ISIS and disseminated attack instructions in addition to propaganda.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

ISIS

Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [October 6, 2018](#): Malaysian authorities arrested eight men with suspected ISIS ties across Malaysia. Five Europeans, one North American, and one native Malaysian who either taught at or attended an Islamic learning center were accused of attempting to set up a center to teach Salafi Jihadism. In addition to ISIS ties, the group is suspected of being connected to other Islamist extremist groups.
- ◆ [October 26, 2018](#): Russian security services claim to have broken up an ISIS cell in Moscow. The FSB states that the group was planning to carry out attacks using guns and IEDs.

Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [October 30, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on Shiite Muslims on a pilgrimage to northeastern Iraq. A roadside bomb detonated killed three as they walked to a holy site in Khanaqin.

BOKO HARAM

Recent Boko Haram Attacks

- ◆ [October 17, 2018](#): Militants executed a second hostage after a negotiation deadline expired. The aid worker was one of three workers who were kidnapped by the terrorist group during an assault on a military compound. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari stated that the government “did everything possible.”

TALIBAN

Recent Taliban Attacks

- ◆ [October 21, 2018](#): The Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack on a security conference in Kandahar province, Afghanistan that left U.S. Brigadier General Jeff Smiley wounded and killed Kandahar's police chief and intelligence chief. The Taliban stated the target of the attack was U.S. Army General Scott Miller, the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

AL QAEDA

Recent Al Qaeda Attacks

- ◆ [October 4, 2018](#): Al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb claimed responsibility for an IED attack on Tunisian soldiers in Kasserine, Tunisia, which left one dead and five wounded.

AL-SHABAAB

Operations Against Al-Shabaab

- ◆ [October 16, 2018](#): A U.S. airstrike in Haradere, Somalia left 60 militants dead. The strike took place after partner forces on the ground came under small arms fire from terrorists.
- ◆ [October 25, 2018](#): African Union forces report that the chief finance controller for Al Shabaab was killed in an ambush. The unnamed individual was the head of tax collection for the Lower Shabelle region, Somalia.

Recent Al-Shabaab Attacks

- ◆ [October 10, 2018](#): Militants attacked a school in Mandera county, Kenya, killing two teachers. The attackers threw an explosive device at a house at the school, before fleeing when military reservists guarding the school opened fire.

SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS

- ◆ [October 2, 2018](#): French security services launched a sweeping counter terrorism raid in Grande-Synthe, France, arresting 11 individuals for ties to terrorism funding. The unnamed individuals were part of the Shiite Muslim Association Centre Zahra France, an organization long-suspected by French authorities of supporting an array of terrorist groups.
- ◆ [October 4, 2018](#): Safwaan Mansur, 22, of Birmingham, U.K., and Hanzalah Patel, 22, of Leicester, U.K., were formally charged with preparation to commit terrorist acts. The two men were planning to travel to Syria in 2017 to carry out acts of terrorism. Both men will appear in court for trial at a later date.
- ◆ [October 8, 2018](#): Hisham al-Ashmawy, a former Egyptian special forces officer turned terrorist, has been apprehended by the Libyan National Army in eastern Libya. Al-

Ashmawy is responsible for coordinating an ambush on Egyptian police officers last years, as well as other high-profile attacks.