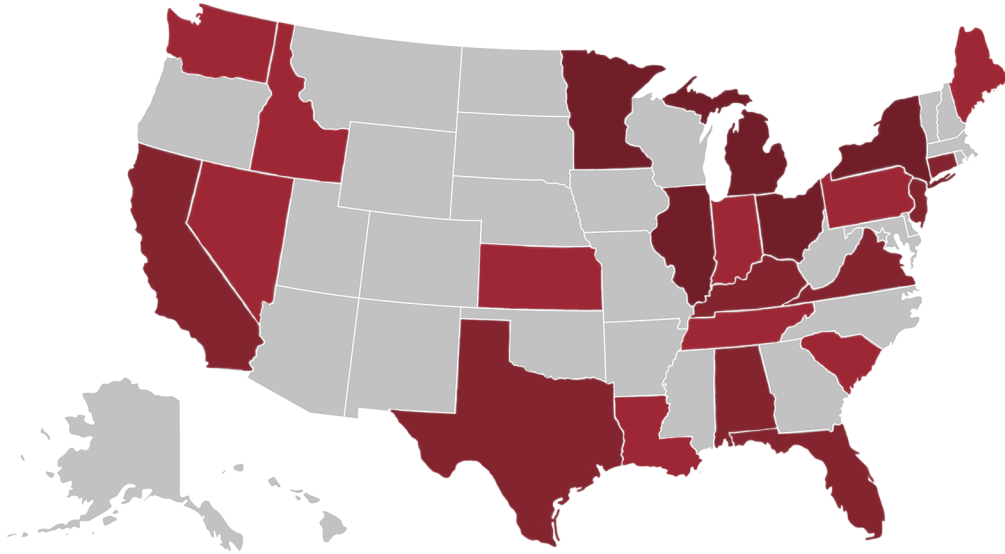


TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE

FOREIGN JIHADIST NETWORKS AND HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISM: A PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA



BETWEEN APRIL 2021–JANUARY 2025, THERE HAVE BEEN

50+ JIHADIST CASES IN 30 U.S. STATES INCLUDING:

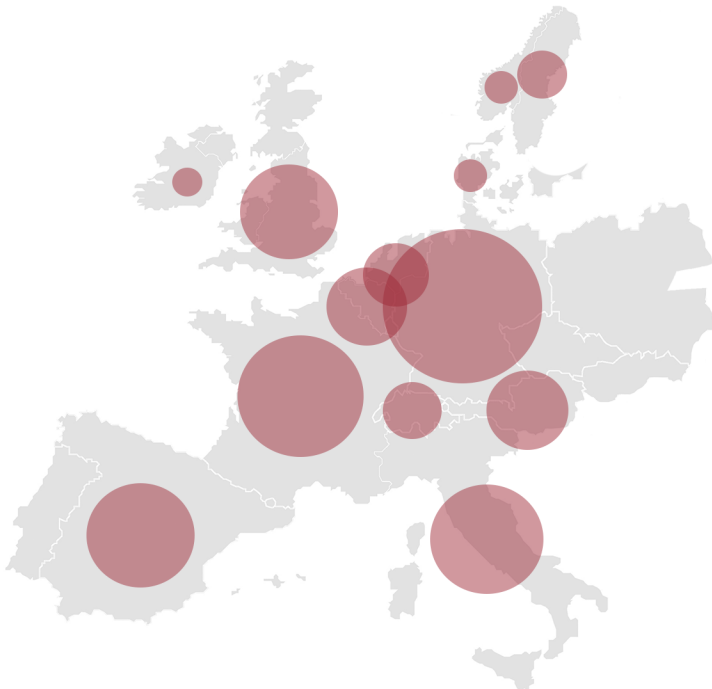
- ✘ DOZENS OF ATTEMPTS TO PROVIDE MATERIAL SUPPORT TO ISIS
- ✘ PROVIDING MATERIAL SUPPORT TO HIZBALLAH AND AL QAEDA
- ✘ RECEIVING MILITARY-TYPE TRAINING FROM ISIS AND HIZBALLAH
- ✘ VEHICLE RAMMING ATTACKS

ALABAMA, CALIFORNIA, CONNECTICUT, FLORIDA, IDAHO, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, KANSAS, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEVADA, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON

*DARKER COLORS INDICATE STATES WITH MORE JIHADIST CASES

ISIS IN THE WEST—A GROWING THREAT TO WESTERN EUROPE

THERE HAVE BEEN **187 ARRESTS/PLOTS/ATTACKS** IN WESTERN EUROPE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2023



NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS:

JAN. 1, 2025

ISIS-INSPIRED SHAMSUD-DIN BAHAR JABBAR CARRIED OUT A VEHICULAR TERRORISM ATTACK ON BOURBON STREET IN NEW ORLEANS, DRIVING A TRUCK INTO A CROWD, KILLING 14 AND INJURING MANY OTHERS. HE HAD POSTED SUPPORT FOR ISIS ON SOCIAL MEDIA BEFORE THE ATTACK.

SEPT. 11, 2024

A PAKISTANI NATIONAL WITH TIES TO IRAN, WAS CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO COMMIT AN ACT OF TERRORISM TRANSCENDING NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND MURDER-FOR-HIRE AS PART OF A SCHEME TO ASSASSINATE A POLITICIAN OR U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ON U.S. SOIL.

JUNE 25, 2024

DHS IDENTIFIED 400+ IMMIGRANTS WHO WERE BROUGHT ACROSS THE U.S. BORDER BY AN ISIS-AFFILIATED HUMAN SMUGGLING NETWORK.

JUNE 9, 2024

8 TAJIKISTAN NATIONALS WERE ARRESTED IN NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, AND LOS ANGELES WITH ALLEGED TIES TO ISIS. THEY ILLEGALLY CROSSED THE U.S. BORDER AND WERE SUSPECTED OF PLOTTING A TERRORIST ATTACK ON U.S. SOIL.

MAY 9, 2024

TREVOR BICKFORD OF MAINE, WAS SENTENCED TO 27 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ATTEMPTING TO KILL NYPD OFFICERS IN TIMES SQUARE IN 2022. HE WANTED TO WAGE JIHAD AND KILL AS MANY TARGETS AS POSSIBLE.

OCT. 7, 2023

HAMAS-TERRORISTS KILLED AN ESTIMATE OF 1,200 PEOPLE IN ISRAEL—ONE OF THE WORST TERRORIST ATTACKS IN HISTORY.

AUG. 30, 2021

THE U.S. WITHDREW FROM AFGHANISTAN WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF 13 U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS AND 170+ AFGHANS IN AN ISIS-K ORCHESTRATED TERRORIST ATTACK.



RECENT KEY DEVELOPMENTS¹

- [January 7, 2025](#): The Biden-Harris administration transferred 11 prisoners from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Oman—including two alleged former bodyguards of Osama bin Laden.
- [January 1, 2025](#): ISIS-inspired Shamsud-Din Bahar Jabbar drove a truck into a crowd of people on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, killing 14 people and injuring dozens of others. This tragic event was unequivocally an act of terrorism. Prior to the attack, he posted several videos on social media proclaiming his support for ISIS. He was killed by local law enforcement and pronounced dead at the scene.
- [September 27, 2024](#): Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hizballah was killed in an Israeli airstrike. Nasrallah was a brutal terrorist and responsible for the death of countless civilians, including thousands of Americans, Israelis, and Lebanese people.
- [June 25, 2024](#): DHS has identified over 400 individuals who have crossed into the United States over the past three years as “subjects of concern” as they were brought by an ISIS affiliated human smuggling network. The whereabouts of more than 50 remain unknown.
- [June 14, 2024](#): The Treasury Department sanctioned four ISIS-linked Eurasian smuggling network members for materially assisting, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support to ISIS.
- [June 10, 2024](#): Former high-level U.S. government officials assert that the terrorism warning lights are blinking red again and that the U.S. faces a “serious threat of a terrorist attack in the months ahead.”
- [June 9, 2024](#): Eight Tajikistan nationals arrested in New York, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles with alleged ties to ISIS. Federal agents tracked the men as they crossed the border and were concerned the men could have been plotting a terrorist attack on U.S. soil.
- [May 9, 2024](#): Trevor Bickford, 20, of Wells, Maine, was sentenced to 27 years in prison for attempting to kill New York Police Department officers in Times Square using a machete-style knife. He [pleaded guilty](#) to terrorism charges earlier this year. According to court documents, he traveled to New York City to wage jihad and kill as many targets as possible.
- [May 3, 2024](#): Two Jordanian foreign nationals attempted to force their way onto Marine Base Quantico. Both were in the country unlawfully. According to reports, the FBI has neither confirmed nor denied whether these individuals are on a terrorist watchlist.
- [April 11, 2024](#): FBI Director Wray testified before Congress how the United States is facing a “heightened threat environment” and that the threat from foreign terrorists has risen to a “whole ‘nother level”.
- [March 22, 2024](#): ISIS-K perpetrated a terrorist attack at the Crocus City Hall, in Russia, which left 145 dead and injured hundreds.
- [January 3, 2024](#): ISIS-K perpetrated a suicide bombing in Kerman, Iran, which left 103 dead and injured hundreds.
- [November 15, 2023](#): FBI Director Christopher Wray testified before Congress that the U.S. border crisis poses a major homeland security threat. Wray testified that gotaways

¹ Unless otherwise specified, incidents included in this report span approximately January 2021, through January 2025. All figures are based on open-source and government data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence.

are a “a great source of concern” for the FBI and that “threats coming from the other side of the border are very much consuming FBI field offices.”

- [October 7, 2023](#): Hamas-terrorists killed an estimated 1,200 Israelis—one of the worst terrorist attacks in history.
- [March 7, 2022](#): General Michael Kurilla, the U.S. Commander of Central Command, testified before Congress that the “central region faces its most volatile security situation in the past half century.”
- [January 15, 2022](#): Malik Faisal Akram, held Americans hostage at the Colleyville, Synagogue, in Texas before being killed.
- [August 26, 2021](#): At least 170 dead, including 13 U.S. service members in the devastating suicide bombing in Kabul Afghanistan.

FOREIGN JIHADIST NETWORKS² AND HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISM³

Cases of homegrown violent extremism⁴ and foreign jihadist networks continue to be an issue of concern as extremist groups work to infiltrate the United States and remotely recruit and radicalize U.S. persons and non-U.S. persons to plan, support, and perpetrate terrorist attacks on U.S. soil and beyond.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [January 2, 2025](#): Jack Danaher Molloy, a former resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was charged by a grand jury for attempting to support Hizballah and making false statements involving international terrorism to the FBI.
- [January 1, 2025](#): ISIS-inspired Shamsud-Din Bahar Jabbar drove a truck into a crowd of people on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, killing 14 people and injuring dozens of others. This tragic event was unequivocally an act of terrorism. He was killed by local law enforcement and pronounced dead at the scene.⁵
- [November 14, 2024](#): Anas Said, from Houston Texas, was arrested for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. He became increasingly radicalized in the wake of the

² Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, “terrorism” is defined as any activity that: involves an act that: is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; and is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States; and appears to be intended to: intimidate or coerce a civilian population; influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. *See* 6 USC § 101(18).

³ The FBI defines “homegrown violent extremists” (HVEs) as “individuals of any citizenship who have lived and/or operated primarily in the United States or its territories, who advocate, are engaged in, or are preparing to engage in ideologically motivated terrorist activities in furtherance of political or social objectives promoted by a foreign terrorist organization but are acting independently of direction by a foreign terrorist organization (“FTO”).” *Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hearing before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 118th Cong. (2023)* (testimony of Christopher A. Wray, Dir. Fed. Bureau of Investigation).

⁴ The FBI has consistently assessed that HVEs as the greatest, most immediate international terrorism threat to the U.S. homeland.

⁵ There have been a number of prior FTO-inspired vehicle-ramming attacks in the U.S. For instance, in October 2017, an HVE drove a rented truck onto a bike lane and pedestrian walkway in Manhattan, New York, killing eight people and injuring 12 others. The HVE carried out the attack in response to calls from the leader of ISIS. In November 2016, an HVE drove a vehicle into a crowd of pedestrians on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, Ohio. The HVE was convicted and sentenced to life in jail in May 2023. The FBI, DHS, and the National Counterterrorism Center have warned about these types of attacks, considering the ease of acquiring a vehicle and the minimal skill necessary to carry out an attack.

October 7, 2023, terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel. According to court documents, a number of social media accounts connected to him contained messages and posts that allegedly showed he supported ISIS. An analysis of his seized devices revealed Said's activities concerning the formation and dissemination of propaganda on behalf of ISIS.

- [September 11, 2024](#): Asif Merchant, a Pakistani national with ties to Iran, was charged with attempting to commit an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries and murder-for-hire as part of a scheme to assassinate a politician or U.S. government official on U.S. soil.
- [September 6, 2024](#): Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, 20, was arrested on September 4, in Canada for plotting a terrorist attack in New York City in support of ISIS.
- [July 24, 2024](#): Hadi Matar, 26, of New Jersey, was charged in connection with attempting to provide material support to Hizballah. The terrorism offenses relate to his attempted murder of Salman Rushdie.
- [July 17, 2024](#): Benjamin Carpenter, 34, of Knoxville, Tennessee, sentenced to 20 years in prison and 20 years of supervised release for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. He published ISIS propaganda that celebrated the deaths of U.S. soldiers, glorified suicide bombings, and called for open war against the United States and its Western allies.
- [June 13, 2024](#): Abdelhamid Al-Madioum, 27, of St. Louis Park, Minnesota was sentenced to 120 months in prison and 15 years of supervised release for providing material support to ISIS.
- [June 12, 2024](#): Misrad Hariz Adem Ramic, 34, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, was convicted for providing material support to ISIS, and conspiring to provide material support to ISIS and receiving military-type training from ISIS. He faces up to 50 years in prison.
- [May 9, 2024](#): Trevor Bickford, 20, of Wells, Maine, was sentenced to 27 years in prison for attempting to kill New York Police Department officers in Times Square using a machete-style knife. He [pleaded guilty](#) to terrorism charges earlier this year.
- [April 8, 2024](#): Alexander Scott Mercurio, 18, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, was arrested for attempting to provide material support and resources to ISIS. He faces up to 20 years in prison.
- [February 16, 2024](#): A complaint was unsealed indicting Harafa Hussein Abdi, 41, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, with providing and conspiring to provide material support to ISIS and receiving and conspiring to receive military-type training from ISIS. He was taken into custody overseas and transported to the U.S. for court proceedings.
- [January 8, 2024](#): Murat Kurashev, 36, of Sacramento, California, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). In May 2018, the State Department added to the Nusra Front's existing December 2012 [designation](#) as a foreign terrorist organization.
- [December 21, 2023](#): Kevin Iman McCormick, 30, of Hamden, Connecticut, was sentenced to 144 months in prison followed by a lifetime of supervised release, for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. He made multiple [statements](#) expressing a desire to travel to Syria and to fight for ISIS, including to members of a Muslim community center, where he said, that "we should support ISIS" and "jihad is the way to go."
- [December 13, 2023](#): Moyad Dannon, 26, of Fishers, Indiana, was sentenced to 16 years and eight months, in prison after pleading guilty to attempting to provide material support or resources, such as firearms to ISIS. In October 2021, his brother, Mahde Dannon, was [sentenced](#) to 20 years in prison, after pleading guilty to the equivalent charges.

- [December 6, 2023](#): Jason Brown, 41, of Lombard, Illinois, pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS, in addition to trafficking fentanyl.
- [November 28, 2023](#): A 16-year-old in Las Vegas was arrested after threatening a lone wolf terrorist attack in support of ISIS and possessing components and instructions to build an explosive device.
- [October 17, 2023](#): Ruslan Maratovich Asainov, 46, of Brooklyn, New York, was sentenced to life in prison for providing material support to ISIS that resulted in death.
- [August 25, 2023](#): Muhammad Masood, 31, of Rochester, Minnesota, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [July 14, 2023](#): Mirsad Kandic, 41, of Brooklyn, New York, was convicted by a federal jury in May 2022, for providing material support to ISIS in the forms of personnel, services, and weapons. He was a high-ranking member of ISIS.
- [July 13, 2023](#): Muhammed Momtaz Al-Azhari, 26, of Tampa Bay, Florida, was sentenced to 18 years in prison, for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [June 29, 2023](#): Kaan Sercan Damlarkaya, 23, of Houston, Texas, was sentenced to more than 13 years in prison, for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. He sought to join ISIS overseas, and if not, then he would carry out an attack on non-Muslims in the United States; a “dream” of his was to be a martyr.
- [June 14, 2023](#): Cole Bridges, 22, of Stow, Ohio, pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS. He attempted to help ISIS conduct a deadly ambush on American troops in the Middle East.
- [May 23, 2023](#): Alexei Saab, 46, of Morristown, New Jersey, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for receiving military training from Hizballah (a Lebanon-based foreign terrorist organization), marriage fraud, and making false statements.
- [May 17, 2023](#): Sayfullo Saipov, 34, of Uzbekistan, was sentenced to eight consecutive life sentences plus 260 years in prison for carrying out a terrorist attack on October 31, 2017, in the name of ISIS, in which he used a truck to kill eight victims and hurt others on a bike path in lower Manhattan, New York.
- [March 3, 2023](#): Ethan Phelan Melzer, 24, of Louisville, Kentucky, pleaded guilty to attempting to murder American troops, providing and attempting to provide material support to terrorists, and illegally transmitting national defense information. He consumed various terrorist propaganda, including by ISIS.
- [February 9, 2023](#): Kambiz Attar Kashani, 44, of the United States and Iran, was sentenced for conspiring to provide equipment and technology for the benefit of the Central Bank of Iran, a designated entity that materially supports known terrorist organizations.
- [February 3, 2023](#): James Bradley, 21, of the Bronx, New York, and Arwa Muthana, 30, of Hanover, Alabama, were sentenced to eleven and nine years in prison, respectively, for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [February 1, 2023](#): Naser Almadaoji, 23, of Beavercreek, Ohio, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for attempting to travel overseas to join ISIS-K. He intended to travel to Kazakhstan, where he planned to be smuggled into Afghanistan, so that he could join and receive military training from ISIS-K.
- [January 31, 2023](#): Ibraheem Izzy Musabli, 32, of Dearborn, Michigan, was convicted on charges of providing material support to ISIS. He willingly traveled to Syria, joined ISIS, and participated in a terrorist training camp. He faces up to 50 years in prison.

- [December 20, 2022](#): Parveg Ahmed, 27, of Queens, New York, was sentenced to more than 12 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [December 15, 2022](#): Mohammed David Hashimi, 35, and David Hashimi, 35, of Potomac Falls, Virginia; Abdullah At Taqi, 23, of East Elmhurst, Queens, New York; Khalilullah Yousuf, 34, of Ontario, Canada; and Seema Rahman, 25, of Edison, New Jersey, were charged with conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. According to court documents, they promoted ISIS by pretending to raise money for humanitarian causes only to transfer funds to cryptocurrency accounts connected to ISIS.
- [December 10, 2022](#): Fawaz Ould Ahmed Ould Ahemeid, 44, of Mauritania, was charged with killing an American citizen and with providing material support to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Al-Murabitoun.
- [November 30, 2022](#): Ahmad Khalil Elshazly, 25, of West Haven, Connecticut, pleaded guilty to attempting to travel to the Middle East to join and fight for ISIS.
- [November 15, 2022](#): Aws Mohammed Naser, 34, of Westland, Michigan, was indicted with attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [November 9, 2022](#): Mustafa Mousab Alowemer, 24, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to over 17 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. On September 16, 2021, he pleaded guilty of attempting to provide material support to ISIS regarding his plan to attack a church in Pittsburgh.
- [October 17, 2022](#): Abdullahi Ahmed Abdullahi, 37, of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and a former resident of San Diego, California, was sentenced to 20 years in prison, for conspiring with others to provide material support to ISIS.
- [August 19, 2022](#): El Shafee Elsheikh, 34, a former British citizen, was sentenced to life in prison for a hostage-taking plot that resulted in the deaths of American, British, and Japanese citizens, in Syria.
- [July 7, 2022](#): Romeo Xavier Langhorne, 32, of St. Augustine, Florida, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [July 1, 2022](#): Kristopher Sean Matthews, 36, of South Carolina, was sentenced to 20 years in prison, and Jaylyn Christopher Molina, 24, of Cost, Texas, was sentenced to 18 years in prison, for conspiring to provide material support to ISIS.
- [June 7, 2022](#): Allison Fluke-Ekren, 42, a former resident of Kansas, led an ISIS battalion in Syria, pleaded guilty to terrorism charges.
- [April 27, 2022](#): Alaa Mohd Abusaad, 26, a former resident of Alabama, was sentenced to over seven years in prison for concealing the transmission of funds to be provided as material support to al-Qaida.
- [April 12, 2022](#): Michael McWhorter, 33, and Joe Morris, 26, both of Clarence, Illinois, were sentenced to prison for their roles in bombing Dar al Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington, Minnesota and weapons charges.
- [March 14, 2022](#): Elvin Hunter Bgorn Williams, 21, of Seattle, Washington, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [November 17, 2021](#): Ali Saleh, 28, of Queens, New York, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [October 18, 2021](#): Thomas Osadzinski, 22, of Chicago, was convicted for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. According to court documents, he created a process using a computer script to make ISIS propaganda more easily disseminated online.

- [October 18, 2021](#): Dilshod Khusanov, 36, of Chicago, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to SISI and Al-Nusra Front.
- [September 13, 2021](#): Damon M. Joseph, 23, of Holland, Ohio, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS and attempting to commit a hate crime.
- [September 2, 2021](#): Alexandra Amon Kotey, 37, a former British citizen and ISIS terrorist, pleaded guilty to his role in killing four Americans in Syria.
- [June 9, 2021](#): Mohamed Haji, 28, of Lansing, Michigan, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. In January 2020, his co-defendants Muse Muse and Mohamud Muse pleaded guilty to the same offense.
- [May 12, 2021](#): Zachary Clark, 42, of Brooklyn, New York, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- [May 4, 2021](#): Michael Solomon, 31, of New Brighton, Minnesota, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to Hamas.
- [April 23, 2021](#): Elvis Redzepagic, 30, of Commack, New York, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS and the al-Nusrah Front.
- [April 22, 2021](#): Akayed Ullah, 31, of Brooklyn, New York, was sentenced to life in prison for ISIS-inspired bombing in a New York City subway station in 2017.
- [April 9, 2021](#): Edward Schimenti, 39, of Zion, Illinois, was sentenced to 162 months in prison for conspiring to provide material support to ISIS.

ISIS IN THE WEST

ISIS or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria is a Salafi-jihadist extremist organization formed from al-Qaeda offshoots in Iraq and Syria. Since its establishment in 2013, ISIS has attempted to unite the world under one caliphate.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [July 13, 2024](#): ISIS and its affiliates continue to release propaganda urging attacks directed towards the Paris Olympics. Propaganda suggested the usage of drones, knives, guns, explosives, and Molotov cocktails.
- [July 6, 2024](#): French intelligence agents arrested several individuals connected to ISIS who had planned to conduct suicide bombings at the Paris Olympics.
- [June 25, 2024](#): DHS has identified over 400 individuals who have crossed into the United States over the past three years as “subjects of concern” as they were brought by an ISIS affiliated human smuggling network. The whereabouts of more than 50 remain unknown.
- [June 9, 2024](#): Eight Tajikistan nationals were arrested in New York, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles with alleged ties to ISIS. Federal agents tracked the men as they crossed the border and were concerned the men could have been plotting a terrorist attack on U.S. soil.
- [April 24, 2024](#): A 16-year-old boy was arrested in France after declaring on social media that he wanted to “die a martyr” at the Paris Olympics. The boy had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and intended on using an explosive belt.

- [April 24, 2024](#): Germany charged 7 foreign nationals for plotting terrorist attacks on behalf of ISIS-K. They intended on carrying out high profile attacks in Germany and Western Europe.
- [March 25, 2024](#): Turkish authorities detained 40 suspected ISIS terrorists. Turkey conducted 1,316 anti-ISIS operations between June 1, 2023, and March 23, 2024. In those operations, 2,733 suspects were detained.
- [March 19, 2024](#): Afghan citizens, Ibrahim M.G. and Ramin N. were arrested for planning to attack police officers and others outside of the Swedish Parliament. According to German prosecutors, ISIS affiliates tasked the two to carry out attacks in Europe.
- [November 13, 2023](#): Aine Davis, 39, originally from London, jailed for 8 years after admitting to funding ISIL. Davis left the UK in 2013, flew to Turkey then joined the terrorist group in Syria.
- [October 16, 2023](#): Abdeslam Lassoued of Tunisia shot and killed two Swedish nationals walking to a soccer match in Brussels. The man was killed in a police operation and ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack the following day.
- [October 13, 2023](#): A man of Chechen origin stabbed a teacher to death and wounded three others in northern France. The perpetrator had pledged allegiance to ISIS.

AL QAEDA (AQ)

Usama Bin-Ladin founded AQ in the late 1980s, with the stated goal of a pan-Islamic caliphate. AQ's September 11, 2001, attacks was the deadliest ever on U.S. soil, killing nearly 3,000 people. AQ has expanded its operations around the world, including in Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [July 15, 2024](#): Al-Qaeda linked terrorists in Somalia execute alleged Kenya and U.S. spies by firing squad.
- [July 11, 2024](#): Al-Qaeda has reportedly established new training camps and safe houses in the Afghan provinces of Nangarhar, Kandahar, and in Kunar, Nuristan and Takhar Provinces.
- [June 26, 2024](#): The International Criminal Court convicted Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud, an Al-Qaeda linked extremist leader, for war crimes and crimes against humanity involving torture and religious persecution in Mali.
- [June 16, 2024](#): Al-Qaeda affiliate group, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), claimed responsibility for an attack in Burkina Faso that killed more than 100 Burkinabe soldiers.
- [June 8, 2024](#): Saif Al-Adel, believed to be leader of Al-Qaeda, called upon supporters to migrate to Afghanistan pronouncing the country as a safe haven for the group and any foreign fighters who wish to join.

- [January 30, 2024](#): SIGAR report states that the threats from Al-Qaeda have resurfaced with the general command of the group, believed to be based in Afghanistan, releasing press statements that call for attacks on American, European, and Israeli embassies and buildings. The report states that Al-Qaeda affiliates remain strong despite a weakened general command. Additionally, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban maintain a close relationship providing support for the group and “Al-Qaeda members serving in advisory roles and appointments in Taliban security and administrative offices.”
- [December 28, 2023](#): The United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team reports that Al-Qaeda has established up to eight new training camps in Afghanistan, including four in Ghazni, Laghman, Parwan and Uruzgan Provinces, with a new base to stockpile weaponry in the Panjshir Valley.
- [August 11, 2023](#): The FBI arrested a 17-year-old male in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for communicating with an AQ-affiliated terrorist organization and gathering bomb-making material.
- [June 9, 2023](#): Reports indicate that Al-Qaeda has established training camps in the provinces of Helmand, Zabul, Nuristan, and Badghis. Additionally, Al Qaeda is operating safe houses in Farah, Helmand, Herat and Kabul, and a media operations center in Herat.
- [July 31, 2022](#): Al-Qaeda emir Ayman al Zawahiri is killed in an airstrike in Kabul, Afghanistan. Zawahiri was sheltering in a safe house run by Sirajuddin Haqqani, the deputy emir of the Taliban and the interior minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.
- [May 2022](#): Abdul Haq al Turkistani, the head of the Al Qaeda and Taliban-linked Turkistan Islamic Party, celebrated the Eid al-Fitr holiday in northern Afghanistan. Turkistani is a member of Al Qaeda’s Shura Majlis, or executive council.
- [August 30, 2021](#): Amin al Haq, the former head of Osama bin Laden’s Black Guard or security detail, returned to Afghanistan after the collapse of the Afghan government. Haq was escorted by the Taliban and treated as a dignitary.

BOKO HARAM

Boko Haram, a Nigerian based group is a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization since November 2013.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [July 28, 2024](#): Nigerian courts have convicted 125 Islamic extremist terrorists and financiers of the group. They were convicted on an array of charges with relation to terrorism, financing of terrorism, rendering material support, and other cases.
- [June 30, 2024](#): Female suicide bombers killed more than 30 in a coordinated attack on a funeral, wedding, and hospital in northern Nigeria. The extremist group is most likely responsible having used women and girls in suicide bombings before.
- [March 8, 2024](#): Nigeria hit with two mass kidnapping in the same week, hundreds of women and children were abducted in the Borno State and Kaduna State, both areas where Boko Haram is active.
- [November 2, 2023](#): Boko Haram attacks killed at least 37 villagers in Northeastern Nigeria.
- [November 22, 2022](#): 10 Chadian soldiers and many others wounded after attacks on a military unit in western Chad. It took place in the Lake Chad Basin region, an area that

has been plagued by Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) group.

THE TALIBAN

The Taliban is a Sunni Islamist national and pro-Pashtun movement founded since the 1990s. In the years leading up to the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Taliban provided a safe haven for members of al-Qaeda (AQ), which provided AQ an area to recruit, train, and send terrorists to other nations. The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021. The group remains closely affiliated with AQ.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [January 8, 2025](#): Reports indicate that the GRU, Russia's military intelligence agency, financed the Taliban in Afghanistan to target American and coalition forces.
- [August 17, 2024](#): According to the Afghan Prosecutors Association, approximately 35 prosecutors and their family members have been killed by the Taliban since July 5, 2021.
- [May 2024](#): SIGAR report states that at least \$10.9 million in U.S. taxpayer dollars have been provided to the Taliban.
- [January 30, 2024](#): SIGAR report states that it remains unclear whether the Taliban can prevent Al-Qaeda and ISIS-K "from conducting external operations and control the flow of foreign terrorist fighters in and through Afghanistan."
- [June 9, 2023](#): Reports indicate that Al-Qaeda leaders are serving as leaders and key functionaries within the Taliban's government. Additionally, the Taliban is issuing national ID cards and passports to Al-Qaeda members, and the Defense Ministry is using Al-Qaeda training manuals.
- [July 2022](#): Reports indicate that Al-Qaeda's "leadership reportedly plays an advisory role with the Taliban, and the groups remain close."
- [May 18, 2021](#): The Department of Defense's Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan reports that the Taliban has "maintained close ties with al-Qaeda" and is "very likely preparing for large-scale offensives against population centers and Afghan government installations."

Al-Shabaab

Al-Shabab, a North-Africa based group is a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization since February 2008. Al-Shabab primarily operates in Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia, as well as in the Sahel region of Africa.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [November 4, 2024](#): Al-Shabaab Operative Cholo Abdi Abdullah was convicted on six counts for conspiring to commit a 9/11 style attack. Reports indicate that nearly 40 civilians were killed and over 200 were injured in a bomb at a beach restaurant.
- [August 3, 2024](#): Al-Shabaab held responsible for an attack on a Mogadishu beach where at least 37 civilians were killed and 212 injured in the explosion. It is the deadliest attack in the Horn of Africa since at least 2022.
- [July 22, 2024](#): Dozens were killed in southern Somalia when Al-Shabaab terrorists tried to overrun three army bases. The Somali government claims they were able to thwart the attacks and kill over 80 fighters.

- [July 15, 2024](#): Al-Shabaab is suspected to have detonated a car bomb outside of a cafe in Mogadishu, killing nine and wounding others.
- [June 13, 2024](#): A U.S. intelligence report indicated that Al-Shabaab has been in contact with the Houthis of Yemen in possible discussions concerning a weapons deal.
- [March 23, 2024](#): 17 people killed at a military base in Somalia. Al-Shabaab terrorists used suicide car bombs.
- [March 15, 2024](#): Al-Shabaab attacked the Syl Hotel in Somalia killing 3 and injuring 27, 3 of which were members of parliament.
- [February 11, 2024](#): Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for an attack that killed 4 at a UAE military base.
- [January 10, 2024](#): Al-Shabaab seizes United Nations helicopter and 8 passengers aboard.
- [June 10, 2023](#): Al-Shabaab killed 6 and injured 10 in an attack on a beachside hotel in Mogadishu.

HOUTHIS

The Houthis (or referred to as Ansarallah) are an Iranian-backed terrorist organization in Yemen. In January 2021, the U.S. Department of State designated them as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. The designation was revoked in February 2021. In January 2024, the Houthis were designated as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group.

From at least November 2023 to December 2024, the Houthis have launched [over 136 attacks](#) in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden using drones and missiles targeting entities such as commercial shipping vessels, Israeli territory, and military targets. Hundreds of commercial vessels have rerouted due to these attacks.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [January 8, 2025](#): U.S. Central Command conducted several precision strikes against two Iranian-backed Houthi underground storage facilities within Houthi-governed territories. According to CENTCOM, the Houthis used these facilities to carry out attacks against U.S. Navy warships and merchant vessels in the southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- [December 31, 2024](#): CENTCOM attacked Iran-backed Houthi targets in Sana'a and other locations within Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen.
- [August 4, 2024](#): Yemen's Houthi rebels launched a missile attack on a Liberian flagged ship traveling through the Gulf of Aden. This attack ends a two week pause in which the Houthis did not strike any new vessels.
- [July 19, 2024](#): An Iranian made long range Houthi drone struck Tel Aviv leaving one person dead and 10 wounded. The strike which touched down near the U.S. embassy was the group's first lethal strike into Israel.
- [July 15, 2024](#): Houthis targeted two ships in the Red Sea using three small vessels, one of which collided with the ship being targeted.
- [July 11, 2024](#): Houthis targeted Liberian-flagged tanker in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, 24 hours after attacking a U.S. flagged ship.
- [June 28, 2024](#): A ship traveling through the Red Sea was attacked by the Houthi rebels as 5 missiles landed near the vessel.
- [June 27, 2024](#): A ship traveling through the Red Sea attacked with a waterborne improvised explosive device used by the Houthis.

- [June 23, 2024](#): A drone launched by the Houthis struck and damaged a vessel in the Red Sea.
- [June 19, 2024](#): A Greek owned, and Liberian-flagged bulk carrier sank days after an attack by the Houthis. The group used two drone boats carrying bombs to hit the vessels stern and side.

HIZBALLAH

Hizballah, a Lebanese-based group is a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization since 1997. Hizballah is responsible for overseas terrorism operations, including against Israel and Western targets.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [January 2, 2025](#): Jack Molloy, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Ireland was indicted on terrorism charges for traveling to Lebanon and Syria with the goal of joining Hizballah, as well as for lying to the FBI.
- [October 19, 2024](#): A Hizballah drone struck a building near the private residence of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in Israel.
- [October 22, 2024](#): Hizballah launched nearly 70 rockets toward Israel. Two Israeli soldiers were killed, and three others were injured.
- [September 27, 2024](#): Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hizballah was killed in an Israeli airstrike. Nasrallah was a brutal terrorist and responsible for the death of countless civilians, including thousands of Americans, Israelis, and Lebanese people.
- [September 20, 2024](#): Ibrahim Aqil, a senior member of Hizballah was killed in an Israeli airstrike. Aqil was a despicable terrorist who played a key role in the 1983 U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks attacks in Lebanon, which killed 241 U.S. servicemembers and 58 French troops.
- [July 28, 2024](#): A Hizballah rocket attack struck a soccer field in the Golan Heights killing 12 children. This is the deadliest attack into Israel since the October 7th attack.
- [July 18, 2024](#): Spanish authorities arrested three individuals through raids in Barcelona and Badalona, who were planning on making up to 1000 kamikaze drones to sell to Hizballah. It is unclear as of now if the July 15 arrest is directly connected.
- [July 15, 2024](#): A Lebanese man was arrested in Germany for procuring drone components to be exported to Lebanon for Hizballah to use against Israel.
- [July 9, 2024](#): Two Israelis were killed when Hizballah fired dozens of rockets at the Golan Heights.
- [July 4, 2024](#): Hizballah launched over 200 rockets towards military bases in Israel in retaliation for the death of one of a senior commander.
- [June 12, 2024](#): Israeli military reported that 215 projectiles were intercepted with Hizballah firing rockets and missiles towards Israeli bases following the death of a senior commander.
- [June 1, 2024](#): Hizballah shot down an Israeli drone in southern Lebanon and also attacked an Israeli base in the border town of Kiryat Shmona.
- [March 27, 2024](#): Hizballah launched dozens of rockets towards Kiryat Shmona in response to Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon.

- [January 9, 2024](#): Hizballah launched a drone strike at the northern headquarters for the Israeli army.
- [October 16, 2023](#): Following the October 7th attack, Hizballah began destroying surveillance cameras along the Lebanon-Israel border.

HAMAS

Hamas is a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization since 1997. Hamas is responsible for its led-surprise attack against Israel that killed approximately 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals, including 35 Americans and took approximately 251 individuals' hostage. According to [reports](#), there remains numerous hostages who have been held in captivity for more than 460 days. [Reports](#) indicate that Israel and Hamas have reached a ceasefire and hostage release agreement.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [September 3, 2024](#): the Justice Department unsealed terrorism, murder conspiracy, and sanctions evasion charges against six leaders of Hamas for their role in the terrorist atrocities that Hamas committed in Israel on October 7, 2023.
- [August 19, 2024](#): Hamas claimed responsibility for a bomb blast near a synagogue in Tel Aviv. The suspect carrying the bomb was killed and a passerby was injured.
- [August 17, 2024](#): Israel reported that two senior Hamas terrorists were killed in an airstrike on their car in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, claiming they were involved in the killing of an Israeli.
- [August 6, 2024](#): Hamas named Yahya Sinwar the top official in Gaza and the mastermind of the October 7th attack as its new leader.
- [July 30, 2024](#): Hamas' political chief, Ismail Haniyeh, was killed in Tehran, Iran.
- [July 24, 2024](#): Shortly after the Israeli Prime Minister's address to Congress, Hamas sympathizers vandalized Union Station, in Washington D.C. Some of the graffiti read, "Hamas is comin[g]".
- [July 1, 2024](#): Israeli forces operating in the Northern Gaza neighborhood of Shujaiya, discovered that Hamas used a medical facility and a United Nations school for terrorist activities.
- [November 14, 2023](#): The State Department designated additional Hamas officials and supporters in connection with the October 7 terrorist attack in Israel.
- [November 4, 2023](#): Hamas terrorists attacked Israeli forces working to provide a safe passage for Gaza residents to flee south from Gaza City.
- [October 7, 2023](#): Hamas launched a surprise assault on Israel from the Gaza Strip. Just after dawn, thousands of heavily armed terrorists stormed across the border attacking kibbutzim, military bases, and a music festival. Around 1,200 Israelis were killed, most of them civilians, and some 250 others were taken hostage, in what was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS

The IRGC is a multi-service primary branch of the Iranian Armed Forces that was designated as a U.S.-Foreign Terrorist Organization in 2019. The IRGC backs several Shi'ite militias across the Middle East.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [December 20, 2024](#): IRGC Captain Mohammad Reza Nouri was charged by the Department of Justice with murder and terrorism offenses for the death of a U.S. citizen living in Iraq.
- [December 16, 2024](#): Mahdi Mohammed Sadeghi, a U.S.-Iranian national was arrested for providing material support to the IRGC, and for a plot to procure sensitive U.S. technology for use in IRGC military drones—one of which killed three American servicemembers in Jordan.
- [August 15, 2024](#): IRGC Colonel Ahmadreza Afshari was killed in an aerial strike in Syria.
- [August 6, 2024](#): A Pakistani national with ties to Iran was charged in connection with a failed plot to assassinate a U.S. government official, including potentially former President Donald Trump.
- [April 23, 2024](#): The Department of Justice charged four Iranian nationals for a multi-year cyber campaign targeting U.S. businesses.
- [April 13, 2024](#): The IRGC seized a container ship near the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane to the Persian Gulf, escalating tensions in the region.
- [December 19, 2023](#): The Department of Justice charged an Iranian national with unlawfully procuring microelectronics used in drones on behalf of IRGC.
- [October 5, 2023](#): Over one million rounds of ammunition were seized by the U.S. Central Command naval forces enroute from Iran to Yemen. The rounds were transferred to Ukrainian armed forces.
- [August 10, 2022](#): A member of the IRGC was charged with a plot to murder the former U.S. National Security Advisor. Subsequently, it was revealed that Mike Pompeo, the former U.S. Secretary of State, was a second target of the same plot.
- [July 13, 2021](#): Iranian Intelligence Services plotted to kidnap an American journalist and human rights activist from New York City for rendition to Iran.

PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization since 1997. PIJ primarily operates in Israel, the Gaza strip, and the West Bank, and is committed to the destruction of Israel.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- [September 12, 2024](#): Three PIJ terrorists were killed by an Israeli airstrike.
- [July 1, 2024](#): The PIJ claimed responsibility for a roadside bomb attack in which one Israeli soldier was killed and one injured.
- [July 1, 2024](#): One Israeli soldier was killed, and nine others injured following a barrage of rockets launched by the PIJ, which was numbered to be around 20. The rockets were launched near the Khan Younis area in what was the largest rocket attack since January.
- [November 26, 2023](#): Reports indicate a rocket misfired by PIJ was responsible for the blast that rocked a hospital in Gaza City, killing civilians.
- [November 14, 2023](#): The U.S. State Department designated additional PIJ terrorists in connection with the October 7 terrorist attack in Israel.