



This document is produced by the Majority Staff of the House Homeland Security Committee.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **ISIS and its supporters are engineering a global terror campaign against the West, including here in the United States where they executed the deadliest Islamist terror attack on American soil since 9/11.** ISIS has now directed or inspired 66 plots to attack Western targets, including 19 inside America. ISIS sympathizers conducted the recent attack in San Bernardino less than three weeks after ISIS operatives struck in Paris.
- **The failure to destroy ISIS has resulted in an unprecedented Islamist terror threat level here at home this year.** Authorities have arrested more than one ISIS-linked individual every week, on



average, in 2015. ISIS-related cases have been opened in all 50 states and account for the majority of the nearly 1,000 active homegrown extremist investigations.

- **ISIS and al Qaeda’s global expansion is spawning jihadist incubators from Yemen to Libya.** ISIS has established a Libyan affiliate that is steadily consolidating its stranglehold on territory and drawing foreign recruits. In Yemen, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has capitalized on the ongoing war there to seize territory and bolster the ranks of its supporters.
- **Foreign fighters operating on jihadist battlefields are a surging threat to Americans and our allies, as demonstrated in the November 13 Paris attack.** The ISIS attack plot in France was executed by mostly French and Belgian militants, some of whom had traveled to Syria and infiltrated Europe using the cover of refugee and migrant flows.
- **Islamist terrorists have attempted to infiltrate the United States through the refugee resettlement program since 2011.** The National Counterterrorism Center has [identified](#) “...individuals with ties to terrorist groups in Syria attempting to gain entry to the U.S. through the U.S. refugee program.”
- **The transfers of Guantanamo terror detainees overseas and, potentially, to the homeland threaten Americans and broader U.S. national security interests.** Nearly one in three detainees released from the facility are known – or are suspected – to have rejoined Islamist terror groups, including a former detainee who now recruits for ISIS in Pakistan. County sheriffs in Colorado warned President Obama in November that moving Guantanamo detainees onto U.S. soil, which is prohibited under law but which the President has threatened to force through executive action, would endanger American communities.
- **Iran is posed to receive economic sanctions relief from the West despite plotting terror attacks against Western interests, employing cyber weapons to target American government personnel, conducting illicit ballistic missile tests, stonewalling UN inspectors, and stockpiling missiles threatening Israel.** The Obama Administration is preparing to ease sanctions on Iran, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism whose sectarian policies are a key enabler for ISIS and al Qaeda’s recruitment.

HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

ISIS is fueling an unprecedented tempo for law enforcement authorities combatting the homegrown Islamist extremist threat.

By the numbers

- Since September 11, 2001, there have been 130 U.S. terrorist cases involving homegrown violent jihadists. Over 80 percent of these cases—which include plotted attacks and attempts to join foreign terrorist organizations—have occurred or been disrupted since 2009.¹

¹ This figure is based on open-source data compiled by the Congressional Research Service and the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.



- Authorities have arrested or charged 57 individuals in the United States this year – 73 since 2014 – in ISIS-related cases. The cases involve individuals: plotting attacks; attempting to travel to join ISIS overseas; sending money, equipment and weapons to terrorists; falsifying statements to federal authorities; and failing to report a felony.²
- Around 300 Americans and/or U.S.-based individuals are actively spreading ISIS propaganda and engaging with other ISIS-aligned individuals over social media, according to a December 2015 [report](#) by George Washington University’s Program on Extremism.
- FBI Director James Comey estimated on October 23 that law enforcement authorities have around [900](#) active homegrown extremist cases, the overwhelming majority of which are related to ISIS. Director Comey [said](#) on November 12 that law enforcement authorities have open investigations of suspected ISIS supporters in all 50 states.

Recent Developments

- [December 2](#): Two ISIS-linked radical Islamists, U.S.-born Syed Rizwan Farook and Pakistani national Tashfeen Malik, attacked a holiday party for local government workers at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people. The attackers had conducted target practice and were armed with handguns, assault rifles, and pipe bombs. They posted a [pledge of allegiance to ISIS](#) leader Abu Bakr al Baghdadi on Facebook; an ISIS media outlet subsequently embraced the attackers as ISIS [followers](#).
- [November 27](#): Law enforcement authorities are tracking at least 48 ISIS-linked individuals who are deemed “high risk” terror suspects.
- [November 17](#): A U.S. official [issued](#) a warning regarding the challenges facing law enforcement authorities as they combat the Islamist terror threat in America: “...we’re one crack in the sidewalk away from a tragedy, and that crack could be an encrypted message we can’t follow, a lead we couldn’t resource or a refugee who slips in like we saw in Paris.”
- [November 12](#): Authorities arrested ISIS supporter Terrence McNeil, a 25-year-old Ohio resident, for soliciting attacks on U.S. service members. McNeil used a social media account to repost an ISIS call for attacks on the U.S. military accompanied by personal information for 100 military personnel.
- [November 5](#): Authorities unsealed an indictment charging four men from Ohio and Kansas for their plans to travel to Yemen to provide material support to Anwar al Awalki and al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula between 2005 and 2012.

TERROR ATTACK PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST

² This figure is based on open-source data compiled by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.



ISIS and its supporters are engineering a global terror campaign against the West, including here in the United States where they executed the deadliest Islamist terror attack on American soil since 9/11.

By the numbers

- Since early 2014, there have been 66 ISIS-linked plots to attack Western targets, including 19 inside in the United States.³
- There have been more than twice as many ISIS-linked attack plots against Western targets in 2015 (46) than in 2014 (20).⁴

Recent Developments

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- [November 13](#): A terror cell made up of at least nine ISIS operatives conducted a series of attacks in Paris, France, killing at least 130 people. The network was led by a Belgian jihadist who, like several of the other attackers, had fought with ISIS in Syria. At least two of the ISIS operatives [infiltrated](#) Europe by blending in among refugees and migrants arriving in Greece.
- [November 12](#): Italian authorities dismantled a European network of ISIS-linked terror suspects who recruited fighters for ISIS and planned to attack and kidnap Western diplomats. The 16 Kurdish members of the network were arrested in Italy, the U.K., Norway, Finland, and Kosovo. A Norway-based Islamist cleric, Najmuddin Faraj Ahmad, established the group and reportedly guided it from inside prison. Some members of the network reportedly traveled to the Middle East to join ISIS and al Qaeda.
- [November 3](#): Spanish authorities arrested three suspected ISIS terrorists who were plotting to launch an attack in Spain. They have detained more than 50 people this year in ISIS-related cases across Spain.
- ISIS is leveraging social media and encrypted technologies for operational planning against the U.S. homeland. As FBI Director Comey has [explained](#), Syria-based ISIS operatives are “recruiting and tasking dozens of troubled Americans to kill people, a process that increasingly takes part through mobile messaging apps that are end-to-end encrypted, communications that may not be intercepted, despite judicial orders under the Fourth Amendment.”
- ISIS [released](#) nearly 900 official videos between January 2014 and October 2015 – approximately 120 of which targeted Western audiences – according to George Washington University researcher

³ This figure is based on open-source data compiled by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

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Javier Lesaca. An estimated 27 percent of its videos were released in English. The most common themes across the videos were depictions of its battles, interviews with foreign fighters, its governing capacity, and executions. Nearly 20 percent of the videos employed imagery popular in Western culture, including references to video games and television shows.

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Foreign fighters, undeterred by U.S. and allied military operations, continue to pour into the jihadist breeding grounds in Syria and Iraq. These fighters pose immediate and long-term terror threats to their home countries and the United States.

By the numbers

- Around [30,000 fighters](#) from over 100 countries have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join extremists—the largest convergence of Islamist terrorists in world history. The total number of foreign fighters has increased nearly [160 percent](#) over the last 18 months, according to a recent study.
- More than [5,000](#) Western passport holders are estimated to have traveled to fight in Syria and Iraq.
- Approximately [250 Americans](#) have traveled – or attempted to travel – to Syria to fight. [Several dozen](#) were believed to be fighting with ISIS earlier this year. As of March 2015, around [40 Americans](#) who traveled to Syria have returned to the United States. FBI Director Comey told the Homeland Security Committee (HSC) on October 21 that the rate at which Americans are trying to join Islamist extremists groups like ISIS [has](#) decreased, but he cautioned that this assessment could be skewed due to a lack of information.
- An estimated [550](#) Western women have traveled to the conflict zone. A British woman, Sally Jones, has been “[actively](#) working to incite attacks and recruit new members,” [particularly](#) women. Another British woman, Aqsa Mahmood, [serves](#) as a recruiter of Western women and member of an all-female police unit based in Raqqa, Syria (al-Khansaa Brigade).
- In addition to fighters joining Sunni extremist groups like ISIS and Jabhat al Nusra in Syria, an estimated [20,000](#) Shi’a militants, including from Lebanese Hezbollah and Iraqi militias, are fighting alongside the Bashar al Assad regime under Iranian direction.

Recent Developments

- [November 30](#): A French official said two suspected French jihadists recently arrested in Tunisia were traveling to training camps in Libya in preparation for fighting with ISIS in Syria.
- [November 19](#): French officials said the Moroccan-born Belgian jihadist who organized the November 13 attack in Paris, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, was also linked to at least four other attack plots thwarted by authorities this year. Abaaoud [joined](#) ISIS in Syria in 2014 and was a battlefield commander for the group. French authorities believe Abaaoud was operating under the direction of [senior ISIS leader](#) Abu Mohammed al Adnani.



- French fighters returning from Syria repeatedly told authorities throughout 2015 that the operational leader of the 11/13 Paris attacks “wanted, at all cost, to recruit volunteers to carry out attacks in Belgium and France,” [according](#) to France’s recent head counterterrorism magistrate. On August 15, 2015, one of the interviewed returnees said he was told to attack a rock concert and was given cash and encryption software to launch an operation.
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FOREIGN JIHADIST NETWORKS & SAFE HAVENS

Islamist terror groups from ISIS to al Qaeda are exploiting power vacuums and putting down deeper roots across the Middle East and North Africa.

By the numbers

- ISIS has a direct presence, affiliates, or groups pledging support in at least 19 countries or territories, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Palestinian territories (Gaza), Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (North Caucasus region), Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.⁵
- ISIS controls at least 12 cities and towns in Iraq, including the second-largest city, Mosul. It controls at least 13 cities and towns in Syria, including the northern city of Raqqa and Abu Kamal, a city near the Euphrates River along the border with Iraq.⁶ ISIS still holds roughly [70 miles](#) of territory along Syria’s border with Turkey.
- ISIS exploits its control over territory to finance its operations. It reportedly generates nearly [\\$1 billion](#) annually from extortion and taxation. These activities are now believed to its primary source of revenue.
- ISIS also controls energy resources in its territory and has made approximately [\\$500 million](#) from annual oil sales. A recent non-governmental assessment estimated that ISIS [produces](#) up to 40,000 barrels of crude oil every day and sells that quantity for nearly \$1.5 million. It also [generates](#) income through bank looting, kidnapping for ransom, human trafficking, stolen antiquities sales, and external donations.

Recent Developments

- ISIS Safe Haven in Syria and Iraq
 - ISIS has largely maintained its core territory in northern and central Syria over the last month. In Syria, it [seized](#) some territory from the Assad regime and from anti-Assad opposition forces in the northern city of Aleppo. In Iraq, ISIS lost control over the Iraqi town of [Sinjar](#), a link between its base in Syria and its primary stronghold in Iraq. However, the resultant Arab-

⁵ Data compiled by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

⁶ These figures are derived from assessments of territorial control conducted by the Institute for the Study of War research organization.



Kurdish [tensions](#) in Sinjar threaten to undermine the prospect for reconciliation and may be exploited by ISIS to regenerate its networks.

- ISIS has controlled [Ramadi](#), the capital of Iraq’s largely Sunni-populated Anbar province along the Syrian border, since May 2015. However, it may be on the verge of [abandoning](#) the city after being pushed out of key areas. Iraqi Security Forces completed the [isolation](#) of the city on November 25 in advance of an attempt to clear and hold it. An estimated [600-1,000](#) ISIS fighters inside Ramadi have built defensive positions throughout the city and are attempting to trap civilians as Iraqi forces prepare their assault. The civilian population in the city has dwindled from 400,000 to less than [10,000](#) since May 2015. ISIS has maintained its primary stronghold in Iraq, Mosul, despite ongoing targeted airstrikes [against](#) its assets there.
- Emerging ISIS Safe Havens and Affiliates
 - ISIS has established a significant presence in Libya and provided direct support to its affiliate there. It benefits from the ongoing internal conflict in Libya and has consolidated its control over Sirte, a city on the Mediterranean Sea. It now holds sway over at least [150 miles](#) along the Mediterranean coastline in Libya.
 - ISIS has recently [drawn](#) “a flood of foreign recruits and their families” to Sirte and its officials have touted that the city “will be no less than Raqqa,” which is ISIS’s key stronghold in Syria. Approximately 800 of the 3,500 Libyans who traveled to fight in Syria and Iraq have [returned](#) to form the core of the ISIS network in Libya.
 - French officials revealed that two Islamist fighters from France had attempted to travel to ISIS [training camps](#) in Libya before being arrested in Tunisia. They intended to eventually fight with ISIS in Syria.
 - Libya has also become a key training ground for Tunisian militants joining ISIS, some of whom have left Syria to [relocate](#) to Libya. ISIS claimed responsibility for the November 25, 2015 [bombing](#) attack targeting Tunisia’s presidential guard.
 - In late 2014, a Libyan ISIS facilitator who had been trained by al Qaeda in Iraq founder Abu Musab al Zarqawi helped [set up](#) an ISIS outpost in Libya. ISIS reportedly began funneling [money and military trainers](#) to fighters in Libya earlier in 2015. Abu Nabil al Anbari, a senior Iraqi ISIS operative who [deployed](#) to Libya to [lead](#) the affiliate, was [targeted](#) and [killed](#) in a U.S. military airstrike on November 13. ISIS has recently [deployed](#) another senior Iraqi operative who served in Sadaam Hussein’s army to Libya.
 - ISIS continues to expand its profile in Yemen through its local affiliate, which has claimed responsibility for recent attacks on [local](#) security forces and Iranian-backed al Houthi rebels. It has also [targeted](#) forces from the United Arab Emirates operating in Yemen. ISIS’s Yemeni affiliate has been fundraising and recruiting fighters since 2014, including [under](#) the leadership of Saudi national Nasir Muhammad Awad al Ghidani al Harbi.



- ISIS affiliate Boko Haram is [expanding](#) its territory in Nigeria and increasing the frequency of its attacks, according to a senior U.N. official in neighboring Cameroon. The group conducted a suicide [bombing](#) targeting a Shi'a procession on November 27, 2015. Boko Haram has also "continued to establish and operate [sleeper](#) [terror] cells" in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, where government forces recently arrested a dozen Boko Haram operatives.
- ISIS's affiliate in Afghanistan and Pakistan ("Khorasan") has continued to build its base and increase its operations. It [issued](#) a direct appeal to Taliban fighters to join its ranks in a recent video. Ongoing friction among leaders of the al Qaeda-aligned Taliban will [enable](#) ISIS-Khorasan to draw recruits, launch attacks, and seize territory. An Afghan government official recently described a district in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province as the country's "[ISIS factory](#)."
- ISIS-Khorasan has between 1,000 and 3,000 [members](#) in Afghanistan. The affiliate consists primarily of Afghan and Pakistani Taliban defectors and is [led](#) by former Tehrik-e Taliban commander Hafiz Saeed Khan. Khan has appointed representatives for Kunar and Nangarhar provinces in Afghanistan and sought to [establish](#) training camps in western Afghanistan. ISIS-Khorasan reportedly [operates](#) out of the Tirah valley region in Pakistan's western tribal areas.
- ISIS's affiliate in the Caucasus has [called](#) for its supporters to "wage jihad in the Caucasus." An estimated [2,000](#) fighters from this region – along with up to 5,000 others from Russia and former Soviet territory – have traveled to Syrian and Iraqi battlefields. Russian forces claimed to have raided a [base](#) in the North Caucasus run by ISIS-aligned militants on November 22.
- ISIS leader al Baghdadi formally accepted a pledge of allegiance from followers in Russia's North [Caucasus](#) region in July 2015. Rustam Aselderov, a former al Qaeda-affiliated commander, is the [head](#) of this group and pledged his allegiance to ISIS leader al Baghdadi in December 2014. As many as [2,500](#) fighters from this region have joined extremists in Syria and Iraq.
- ISIS's established affiliate in the Egyptian Sinai [controls](#) territory in the northeast part of the peninsula. On December 3, Israeli media reported that ISIS-Sinai commander Shadi al Menei is seeking to [coordinate](#) with HAMAS militants. ISIS-Sinai took responsibility for the bombing aboard a Russian commercial [plane](#) over the Sinai Peninsula on October 31 that killed 224 people. The group has attacked Egyptian security forces, Western targets, and government-aligned tribal [militias](#).
- ISIS has been attempting to expand its reach into Israel and the Palestinian territories. It seeks to exploit Palestinian terror attacks in Israel and [released](#) a video in October of a Hebrew-speaking member threatening attacks against Jews. Authorities in Israel have arrested [five suspected ISIS supporters](#) who had undertaken weapons training over the last few months. An Israeli official [warned](#) recently that it is only a matter of time before ISIS attempts to launch attacks in Israel.
- ISIS-aligned militants in Bangladesh have escalated their operations. Their primary targets of terror have been Westerners and the country's Shi'a community. Most recently, ISIS [claimed](#) responsibility for the bombing of a Shi'a mosque in northern Bangladesh. ISIS supporters also



took credit for the October 2015 killing of a [Japanese](#) citizen and for the September 2015 killing of an [Italian](#) aid worker. The [U.S. Embassy](#) in Bangladesh has limited the movements of its employees and their families due to the heightened threat environment.

- ISIS [gained](#) a pledge of allegiance from Somali cleric Abdul Qadir Mumin and some of his followers in October 2015. Mumin was a member of al Shabaab, the Somalia-based al Qaeda affiliate, which has been attempting to fend off further [defections](#) from its ranks. An unconfirmed October 2015 [estimate](#) from Somali government sources indicates that less than 10 percent of al Shabaab's membership would switch their allegiance from al Qaeda to ISIS.
- Al Qaeda Safe Havens and Affiliates
 - Al Qaeda continues to plot terror attacks abroad, according to a November 23, 2015 Worldwide Travel Alert [issued](#) by the State Department. The alert reinforces National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Director Nicholas Rasmussen's [warning](#) in October 2015 to the HSC: "...I'm still not ready to declare core al-Qa'ida as having been defeated in the classical sense of the word where the capability has been removed."
 - Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has been exploiting the ongoing war and expanding its territory in Yemen. On December 2, AQAP [seized](#) two district towns in southern Yemen. The [growth](#) of Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen has "provided AQAP with a useful sectarian narrative upon which to build support, allowing it to position itself as a defender of Sunni interests."
 - Al Qaeda [remains](#) a threat in Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan where it is working to [reconstitute](#) its networks and attack capabilities. The al Qaeda-aligned Haqqani Network was [reportedly](#) tied to a threat stream in Afghanistan's capital that prompted Embassy Kabul to [warn](#) of an imminent attack on November 30, 2015.
 - The al Qaeda-aligned Afghan Taliban has waged an offensive campaign to seize territory in Afghanistan, most [recently](#) in southern Helmand province. A Western official recently [said](#) "The Taliban movement is stronger than [any time] since 2001." Commander of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan General John Campbell [assessed in October 2015](#) that Afghan security forces "do not possess the necessary combat power and numbers to protect every part of the country" from the Taliban and other insurgent groups.
 - Al Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al Nusra (JN) maintains a significant presence in northern Syria. Following Russia's intervention, JN won over a significant contingent of [foreign fighters](#) already operating in Syria "who are starting to believe that the global jihadis are the only ones who will fight with them against Assad."
 - Al Qaeda's Somali affiliate al Shabaab has been attempting to stave off defections to ISIS while [continuing](#) to launch terror operations. Authorities in Kenya [warned](#) on November 29 that a U.K. citizen fighting for al Shabaab, Malik Yassin, is suspected of having snuck into Kenya. A senior Shabaab leader was killed in a December 2 U.S. military [airstrike](#).



- Al Qaeda leader Ayman al Zawahiri [reiterated](#) the group's long-term goal of establishing an Islamic caliphate in a new audio recording. He also called on Muslims to "liberate" Jerusalem, to attack America and its allies, and to unite in order to counter the U.S., Europe, Russia, and Iran and its proxies.
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GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEES

The transfers of Guantanamo terror detainees overseas and, potentially, to the homeland threaten Americans and broader U.S. national security interests.

- The Office of the Director of National Intelligence's (ODNI) most recent [assessment](#) of recidivism among former Guantanamo Bay detainees concludes that 30 percent of detainees released have resumed or are suspected of having returned to jihadist activity. The September 2015 assessment concluded that 11 more detainees were believed to have returned to the battlefield since the previous [report](#) issued in March 2015.
 - A former Guantanamo Bay terrorist detainee, Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost, is reportedly [recruiting](#) on behalf of ISIS. Dost was affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban following his release and is now a key [deputy](#) to the head of ISIS's affiliate in Afghanistan and Pakistan,
 - The Obama Administration [released](#) five Guantanamo Bay detainees of Yemeni descent, transferring them to the United Arab Emirates. One of the detainees, Ali Ahmad al Razihi, was a suspected [bodyguard](#) for Osama bin Laden. There are now 107 detainees left at the facility.
 - The Obama Administration has [delayed](#) the submission of its plan to Congress for shutting down the terror detention facility and transferring some detainees to U.S. prisons. White House officials have threatened to close the facility via executive action despite a ban on the transfer of Guantanamo terror detainees to American soil.
 - The County Sheriffs of Colorado wrote a [letter](#) to President Obama on November 9, 2015, stating they are "in strong opposition to your proposed actions to transfer dangerous foreign enemy combatants held at [Guantanamo] to civilian prisons in our state." The sheriffs cited concerns about the endangerment of the communities housing the prisons where terror detainees would be held; they noted there is a credible threat "posed by sympathizers who would mount an attack on these facilities or commit other acts of terror in our state to draw further attention to their causes."
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TERRORISTS' EXPLOITATION OF REFUGEE FLOWS

Islamist terrorists have [infiltrated the United States in the past](#) through refugee programs and [are attempting to do so again](#). ISIS has already exploited refugee and migrant flows to infiltrate and attack the West. The Obama Administration's proposal to resettle Syrian refugees in the U.S. would have minimal impact on the refugee crisis but a potentially major impact on our homeland security.



- The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has [identified](#) "...individuals with ties to terrorist groups in Syria attempting to gain entry to the U.S. through the U.S. refugee program."
 - At least two of the ISIS operatives involved in the November 13 Paris attacks [infiltrated](#) Europe by posing as refugees and migrants arriving in Greece.
 - The Obama administration has [proposed](#) resettling at least 10,000 more Syrian refugees in the U.S. this fiscal year, in addition to more than 2,300 already resettled since 2011. Law enforcement and intelligence officials have repeatedly [indicated](#) that we lack the on-the-ground intelligence in Syria needed to confidently vet individuals and identify security risks in the process of screening Syrian refugees for resettlement.
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THE IRANIAN TERROR THREAT

The nuclear agreement with Iran will provide hundreds of billions of dollars in economic relief to a regime that continues to support terrorists and undermine American national security interests.

- The Obama Administration will reportedly begin [easing](#) sanctions on Iran as early as January 2016, [despite](#) the limited cooperation Iran provided to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and "outright Iranian efforts to deceive [UN] inspectors."
- Iran "will be [poised](#) to more easily move funds to terrorists' coffers, foment conflict around the region, and possibly even procure equipment for a clandestine weapons program" after Iranian banks are [reconnected](#) to the global financial system as part of sanctions relief measures.
- Iran conducted a medium-range ballistic [missile test](#) on November 21 in violation of its international commitments.
- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) recently launched a [cyberattack](#) campaign targeting the e-mail and social media accounts of American government employees. "The IRGC has developed an army of cyberattackers, trained by Russia, who have focused on targets as varied as Wall Street banks, Saudi oil companies and both internal and external opponents" of the Iranian regime, according to a November 4 [report](#).
- Two [terror suspects](#) operating on behalf of the IRGC Quds Force were arrested by Kenyan authorities on November 28. The operatives admitted to [plotting attacks](#) targeting hotels in Nairobi frequented by Westerners.
- An Iranian-linked terror network comprised of [47 suspects](#) possessing a variety of explosives and materials for constructing bombs was dismantled by authorities in Bahrain in early November. The Bahraini government said the network was plotting multiple terror attacks.



- Peruvian authorities recently [arrested](#) a dual American-Peruvian citizen who is married to a suspected Lebanese Hezbollah operative responsible for targeting Jewish communities.
- The Iranian-directed terror group Lebanese Hezbollah has a stockpile of approximately [150,000 rockets and missiles](#) with varying ranges, according to an updated Israeli assessment.
- The commander of the IRGC Quds Force Qassem Suleimani has been [overseeing](#) a ground offensive to retake Aleppo with a force consisting of pro-Assad Syrian fighters, Iranian military personnel and volunteers, Lebanese Hezbollah operatives, and Shi'a militias, including those who have been [redeployed](#) from Iraq to Syria. Kata'ib Hezbollah, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, claimed it deployed approximately [1,000](#) of its "special forces" who had fought against American forces in Iraq to Aleppo.