

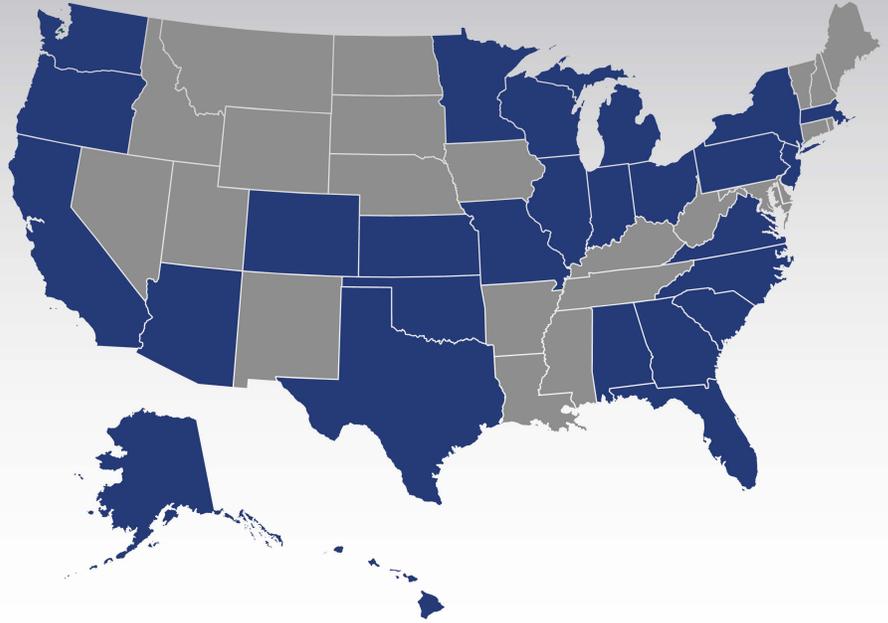
TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

FEBRUARY 2018

THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

150 HOMEGROWN JIHADIST CASES in 30 STATES for...

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



Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

This document is produced by the Majority Staff of the House Homeland Security Committee. It is based on information called from open source materials. Plots and attacks utilizing multiple weapons are included in the totals for each weapon.

ISIS-LINKED PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST BY WEAPON



77

cases where ISIS used or attempted to build or use **explosives**



56

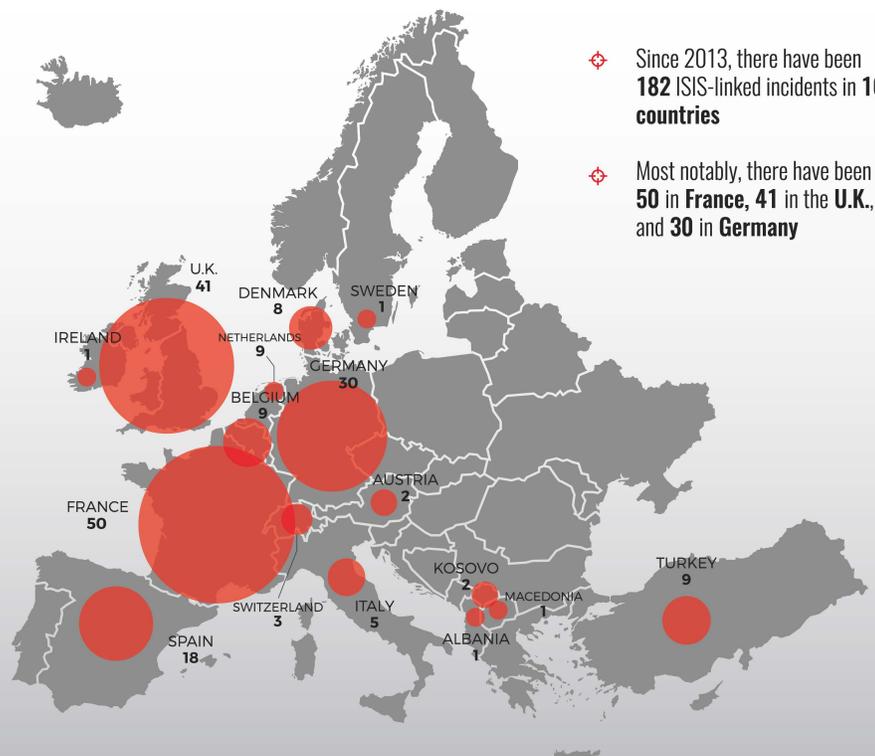
cases where ISIS used an **edged weapon**



20

cases where ISIS used a **vehicle** as a weapon

ISIS' TERROR CAMPAIGN IN EUROPE



Since 2013, there have been **182** ISIS-linked incidents in **16** countries

Most notably, there have been **50** in **France**, **41** in the **U.K.**, and **30** in **Germany**

KEY POINTS¹

- ◆ [January 17, 2018](#): Christian Ganczarski, 51, a Polish-born German citizen imprisoned in France has been charged by the U.S. for his role in planning the September 11th attacks. Prosecutors state that Ganczarski used his skills in computer tech, radio communications, and weapons systems to help top Al Qaeda leaders plot the attack. He was sentenced to 18 years in prison for planning another Al Qaeda attack in Tunisia which killed 21 people.
- ◆ [January 20, 2018](#): Six militants attacked the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, killing more than 20 people, including four Americans. Two Americans were also wounded in the attack. The attackers were dressed as Afghan soldiers, wearing suicide vests, and were targeting foreigners.
- ◆ [January 27, 2018](#): In Kabul, Militants used an explosives-laden ambulance to pass through a security checkpoint to a crowded street near government buildings and embassies, before detonating and killing over 100 people and wounding 235. The area, known as Chicken Street, is also near a hospital and E.U. offices, and was crowded with civilians.
- ◆ Filipino authorities announced that ISIS militants [looted approximately \\$40 million](#) in cash, gold, and jewelry during their insurgency on the island of Marawi last year. The group was attempting to form a caliphate in Southeast Asia, and were ultimately defeated by government forces.

HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 150 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States, including a significant spike in arrests in December.

Recent Developments

- ◆ [January 4, 2018](#): Everitt Aaron Johnson, 26, of Modesto, California was charged for plotting a terror attack in San Francisco. Johnson was arrested on December

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.

23rd for planning to use pipe bombs and fire arms at Pier 39, a popular tourist area. Johnson is a former U.S. Marine.

- ◆ [January 29, 2018](#): Mahad A. Abdiraham, 20, who is on trial for assaulting two men at the Mall of America with a knife in November 2017, claimed that he carried out the attack on behalf of ISIS.

ISIS IN THE WEST

Recent Developments

- ◆ [January 6, 2018](#): Najmaddin Faraj Ahmad, also known as Mullah Krekar, 61, is being tried in absentia in Italy for running Rawti Shax, a Europe-based network of jihadist operative cells. The organization's ultimate aspiration is to join ISIS. Ahmad currently resides in Norway, but Norwegian authorities have stated that if convicted, he will be extradited to Italy. Ahmed has a history of Islamist terror, and founded the now-defunct Ansar al-Islam, another Islamist terror group.
- ◆ [January 8, 2018](#): Munir Hassan Mohammed, 37, of Derby, U.K. and Rowaida El-Hassan, 32, of London were found guilty of plotting an attack on behalf of ISIS. The couple planned to use TATP, an explosive compound, and ricin, a deadly poison to kill as many people as possible. The couple met through a dating website, and began sharing extremist materials. Mohammed was born in Eritrea, and came to the U.K. from Sudan as an asylum-seeker.
- ◆ [January 8, 2018](#): Rahma al-Assad, 19, and Tasnin al-Assad, 19, were arrested by Shin Bet for plotting an attack on behalf of ISIS in Israel. The two women, both Israeli citizens, consumed ISIS propaganda, and had been in contact with a member of the terrorist organization. They had begun surveilling potential targets, and planned to use an explosive device.
- ◆ [January 21, 2018](#): An unidentified 33-year-old-man was arrested for planning an attack on behalf of Nimes, France. Security services found bomb-making materials at the man's house, and ISIS propaganda including a video pledging allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

- ◆ [January 24, 2018](#): Gary Staples, 50, of London was found guilty of seven counts of encouraging terrorism and one count of disseminating a terrorist publication. Staples created and uploaded videos praising ISIS and encouraging viewers to commit violence on their behalf.
- ◆ [January 24, 2018](#): Jawad Bendaoud, 31, became the first person to be tried in connection with the November 2015 Paris terror attacks on sites throughout the city including the Bataclan concert venue. Bendaoud is being charged with harboring Abdelhamid Abaaoud and Chakib Akrouh, following their coordinated attacks using firearms and explosives. Bendaoud initially claimed to not have known that the two were terrorists.
- ◆ [January 26, 2018](#): Iftikhar Ali, 19, of High Wycombe, U.K. was sentenced to three and a half years in jail for disseminating ISIS propaganda. Ali was friends with Khuram Butt, one of the terrorists involved in the London Bridge attack.
- ◆ [January 27, 2018](#): Mohamed Bakkali, 30, was handed over to French authorities by the Belgian government to be charged for his role in the 2015 ISIS attacks in Paris. French authorities claim that Bakkali helped organize and coordinate the gun and bomb attacks on the Bataclan concert hall.
- ◆ [January 30, 2018](#): Rakhmat Akilov, an Uzbek national who was arrested after stealing a truck and driving through a crowd in Stockholm in April 2017, was officially charged with terrorism, attempts to carry out a terror act, and endangering others. Akilov has admitted to carrying out an attack on behalf of ISIS to punish Sweden for being part of the coalition against the terrorist group. If convicted, Akilov could face life in prison.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

ISIS

Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [January 12, 2018](#): An unidentified 27-year-old woman was arrested at Heathrow airport on “suspicion of preparation of terrorist acts” under the Terrorist Act of 2005. The woman, who is a U.K. national, was on a flight from Addis Ababa, and is

believed to have been married to a member of ISIS. She has a two-year-old son who is reported to have been born when she lived in ISIS-controlled territory.

- ◆ [January 20, 2018](#): Approximately 150 ISIS militants were killed in a U.S.-led coalition airstrike. The target was an ISIS command and control center located in As Shafah, Syria. Officials have stated that given the size of the group, the militants were most likely massing for a movement.

Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [January 24, 2018](#): Five gunmen stormed the offices of Save the Children in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Three staff members were killed and four were injured, however the majority were able to take shelter in a safe room. All of the attackers were killed during a nine-hour-long gun fight.
- ◆ [January 29, 2018](#): Five militants attacked an army outpost near the main military academy outside of Kabul, killing 11 and wounding 16. Two of the attackers detonated suicide vests, before the remaining three opened fire. Two of the gunmen were killed by security, and the third arrested.

BOKO HARAM

Recent Boko Haram Attacks

- ◆ [January 17, 2018](#): Militants attacked a military outpost in the southeast border town of Diffa, Niger, killing four soldiers and a civilian. The town is close to Borno state, Nigeria, where Boko Haram is based. Troops were reportedly taken by surprise, and the terrorists managed to seize 10 armored vehicles.
- ◆ [January 17, 2018](#): Suicide bombers attacked a market on the outskirts of Maiduguri, Nigeria killing 12 and injuring 48. The area is a site for displaced people and a frequent target for Boko Haram.

TALIBAN

Operations Against the Taliban

- ◆ [January 25, 2018](#): Nasir Mahmood, a key player in the Taliban-linked Haqqani network, was killed in a U.S. airstrike on his house in the semi-autonomous tribal

region bordering Afghanistan. Mahmood is believed to have led multiple attacks on both U.S. and Afghan forces.

AL-SHABAAB

Recent Al Shabaab Attacks

- ◆ [January 3, 2018](#): Gunmen killed five in an attack on Kenyan policemen in Mandera county, which borders Somalia. The policemen, including three civilian reservists, were on patrol when they were ambushed, and their truck was set on fire.
- ◆ [January 23, 2018](#): Militants used an IED to kill four, including a child, and wound six in a Mogadishu suburb. The terrorists appear to have been targeting a military vehicle, but the explosive was large enough to harm bystanders.

Operations Against Al-Shabaab

- ◆ [January 2, 2018](#): A U.S. airstrike west of Mogadishu resulted in two militants being killed and a vehicle armed with an improvised explosive being destroyed.
- ◆ [January 18, 2018](#): A joint U.S.-Somali raid on an Al-Shabaab training facility freed over 30 children who had been taken as recruits by the terrorist organization. No children were killed during the raid, which left four militants dead.
- ◆ [January 19, 2018](#): A U.S. airstrike killed four militants 30 miles northwest of the coastal city of Kismayo.

SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS

- ◆ [January 18, 2018](#): An unidentified 16-year-old from Birmingham, U.K. pleaded guilty to attempting to travel in order to commit acts of terrorism. He was arrested in June 2017 at Birmingham Airport attempting to travel to Turkey.