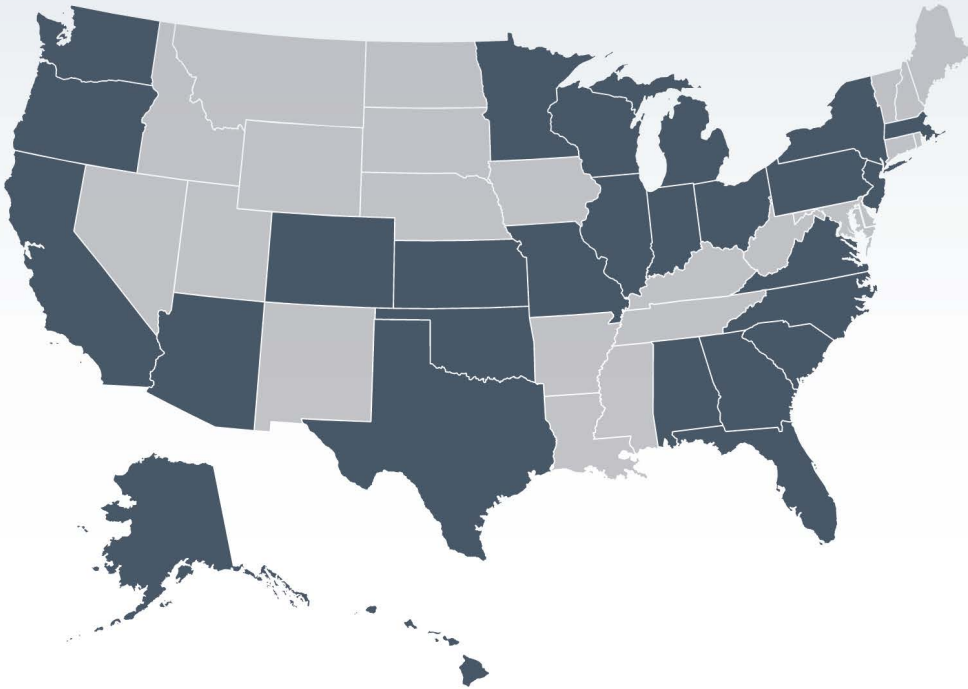


# TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

APRIL 2018

## THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

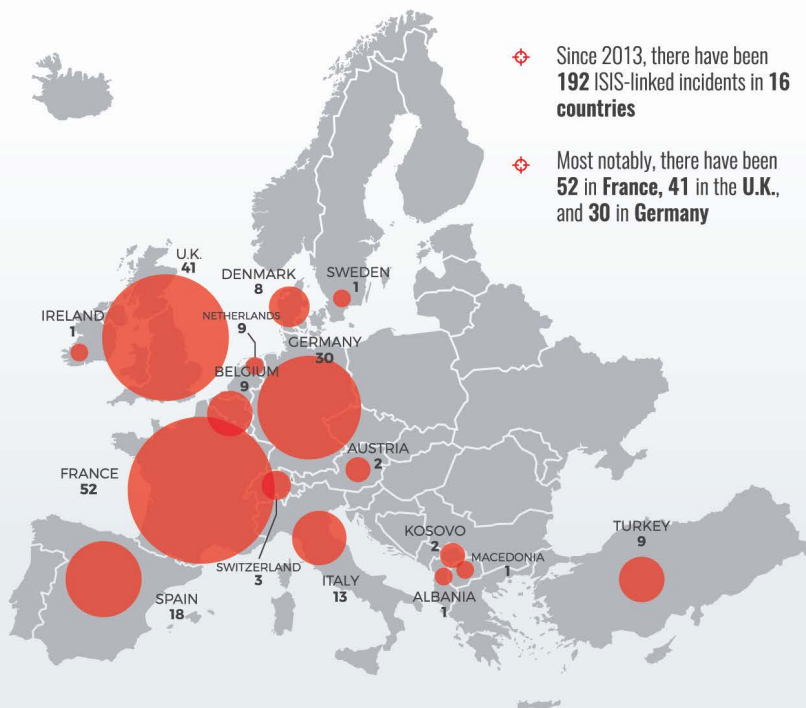


Since 2013, there have been

**150 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



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



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



**21** cases where ISIS used a **VEHICLE** as a weapon

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

## KEY POINTS<sup>1</sup>

- ◆ As the Iraqi government continues to regain control of territory, the focus shifts from defeating ISIS on the field of battle to processing captured fighters. [Currently over 19,000 individuals with ISIS or terror-related connections are being held](#). The government has sentenced over 3,000 of them to death. This includes not only enemy combatants, [but also foreign wives of terrorists](#), which are estimated to number around 560.
- ◆ [March 1, 2018](#): The U.S. Department of State has added seven organizations and two individuals with ties to ISIS to the Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGT) list and as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO). The groups are, ISIS West Africa, ISIS Philippines, ISIS Bangladesh, ISIS Somalia, Jund al-Khilafah-Tunisia, ISIS Egypt, and Maute Group. The individuals are, Mahad Moalim, the ISIS-Somalia deputy leader and Abu Musab al-Barnawi, the ISIS-West Africa leader. The SDGT designation prohibits U.S. citizens from engaging in transactions or providing assistance to these groups and individuals.
- ◆ Filipino authorities [have confirmed](#) that 23 armed groups have consolidated under one banner, calling themselves ISIS Philippines. This news comes five months after the Filipino military ended the Marawi Siege in October 2017, where they defeated the Maute Group, an ISIS affiliate.
- ◆ [March 30, 2018](#): Noor Salman, 31, widow of Omar Mateen who in 2016 attacked Pulse nightclub on behalf of ISIS, was acquitted on charges of lying to the FBI and assisting Mateen in the attack. Her defense claimed that she was easily manipulated, and had a low IQ. They also made the case that she could not have helped Mateen plan the attack, as it was a last minute decision to target Pulse nightclub.

## HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 152 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

## Recent Developments

- ◆ [March 7, 2018](#): An unidentified teenage male in Hurricane, Utah was arrested and charged for the manufacture, possession, sale, use or attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, after an IED he built failed to detonate at his school. Police stated that he had been researching ISIS and expressed interest in promoting the terrorist group.
- ◆ [March 8, 2018](#): Aziz Ihab Sayyed, 23, of Huntsville, Alabama pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS. Sayyed purchased bomb-making materials in 2017, and planned to construct explosives to attack police stations and Redstone Arsenal, a United States Army post in Huntsville. He also admitted to attempting to form a terror cell.

---

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

- ◆ [March 8 2018](#): Aaron Daniels, 21, of Ohio, who in July 2017 pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS, has had his sentencing scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>. Daniels sent money to a member of the terrorist group, and expressed interest in travelling to Libya.
- ◆ [March 13, 2018](#): Gregory Lepsky, 20, of Point Pleasant, New Jersey, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Lepsky planned to construct an IED from a pressure cooker, and detonate the bomb in New York City. He faces between 16 and 19 years in prison.
- ◆ [March 13, 2018](#): Muhanad Mahmoud al Farekh, 32, of Houston, Texas, was sentenced to 45 years in prison for multiple terrorist offense including conspiracy to murder American military personnel and providing material support to Al Qaeda.
- ◆ [March 15, 2018](#): Vicente Adolfo Solano, 53, a Honduran citizen living in Miami, Florida, pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS. Solano plotted to build and detonate an IED at a public location in Miami on behalf of ISIS. The FBI became aware of his intentions and undercover agents provided him with an inert device, which he believed to be a functioning bomb. Solano was arrested when he arrived at a mall to carry out the attack.
- ◆ [March 16, 2018](#): Khari Milak Whitehead, 26, of Antioch, Tennessee, was arrested for making false statements while attempting to purchase a firearm. Whitehead intended to buy a firearm and claimed he had never been committed to a mental institution, when he had been committed under a court order in December 2017. He was reported to authorities by multiple citizens for his behavior, and fascination with ISIS.
- ◆ [March 20, 2018](#): Erick Jamal Hendricks, 37, of Charlotte, North Carolina, was convicted of conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. Hendricks used social media to recruit individuals to form a cell, and carry out attacks in the name of ISIS.
- ◆ [March 30, 2018](#): Mohamed Elshinawy, 33, of Edgewood, Maryland, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for providing material support to ISIS, and making false statements in connection to a terrorism matter.

## ISIS IN THE WEST

### Recent Developments

- ◆ [March 1, 2018](#): Christopher Soares, 28, of Walsall, U.K. was sentenced to 16 months in prison for disseminating a terrorist publication. In June 2016, Soares shared a link to an ISIS instructional video on bomb-making and murder methods.
- ◆ [March 1, 2018](#): Raban Alou, 20, of Parrametta, Australia, was sentenced to 44 years in prison for “aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring a terrorist act.” Alou gave a revolver to Farhad Jabar Khalil Mohammad, who then murdered a police officer on behalf of ISIS. Alou had become increasingly radicalized and enamored of the ISIS ideology. He is the first person to be charged with aiding and abetting a terrorist act in Australia.
- ◆ [March 2, 2018](#): Lloyd Gunton, 17, of Wales, U.K. was sentenced to life in prison for plotting an attack on a Justin Bieber concert in Cardiff. Gunton researched security for

the event, drafted a martyrdom letter declaring his allegiance to ISIS, and was found in possession of a claw hammer and large knife.

- ◆ [March 7, 2018](#): Mourad T., a Moroccan man arrested in Rybnik, Poland by Polish authorities in September 2016, was convicted for his role in the thwarted attack on a Paris-bound train in August 2015 and the ISIS attacks in Paris November 2015. He is believed to be a collaborator of Abdelhamid Aaaoud, the mastermind behind the Paris attacks.
- ◆ [March 8, 2018](#): The trial of Deday A., a 17-year-old Iraqi male arrested in Hesse, Germany, has begun. Deday was arrested for planning an ISIS attack in Britain or Germany. Security services found large numbers of pyrotechnics at Deday's home, and believe he was planning to build an explosive device.
- ◆ [March 14, 2018](#): Abdulahi Hasan Sharif, 31, a Somali-born refugee living in Canada, who in October 2017 stabbed a police officer and rammed pedestrians with a stolen truck was deemed fit to stand trial. A court-ordered medical assessment determined that Sharif fully understood his actions and maintained the ability to control his behavior at the time of the attack.
- ◆ [March 15, 2018](#): Ahmed Hassan, 18, of Surrey, U.K., who wounded 50 when he attempted to detonate an IED on the Parsons Green metro in London on September 15, 2018, has been found guilty.
- ◆ [March 15, 2018](#): Raul Gutierrez, of Cuba, charged in Colombia for terrorism and conspiracy, after security services discovered a plot to bomb a café frequented by U.S. diplomats on behalf of ISIS. Gutierrez was arrested in a coordinated effort between Spanish security services, the FBI, and Colombian authorities.
- ◆ [March 15, 2018](#): Yamen A., 20, a Syrian refugee who was arrested in Berlin, Germany in October 2017 for plotting a large scale attack has been indicted. Yamen is believed to have been inspired by ISIS videos, and intended to make and IED.
- ◆ [March 19, 2018](#): An unidentified 33-year-old male refugee from Syria has been convicted of being a member of ISIS in northern Greece. The man arrived from Turkey as a refugee in 2016, and was arrested in October 2017 after applying for asylum, when authorities discovered incriminating photos of his time in Syria.
- ◆ [March 19, 2018](#): Bouchra Abouallal, 25, Tatiana Wielandt, 25, and Kaoutar B., all of Antwerp, Belgium have all been tried in absentia and sentenced to five years in prison and a fine for their role in ISIS Abouallal and Wielandt joined the terrorist group as wives, and travelled to Syria. They began recruiting other women to join the organization. Kaoutar actively recruited women to join as well. Abouallal and Wielandt allegedly are willing to accept their punishment and return to Belgium.
- ◆ [March 23, 2018](#): Radouane Lakdim, 26, a Moroccan-born French national, attacked a supermarket in Trèbes, France, killing four, including a policeman, and wounding 16. Lakdim stole a car after killing the driver, and entered the supermarket before announcing that he was a soldier of ISIS before opening firing. He was killed when police

raided the supermarket after an officer traded places with a hostage. Lakdim was known to security services for his radical views.

- ◆ [March 27, 2018](#): Abdel Rahman, 59, born in Egypt and living in Italy was arrested for “terrorist activities.” Using his position as head of the Al Dawa Islamic center in Foggia, Italy, Rahman is believed to have used ISIS propaganda to indoctrinate children. The children, aged between four and 10, were encouraged by Rahman to use violence against “unbelievers.”
- ◆ [March 28, 2018](#): Elmahdi Halili, 23, a Moroccan-born Italian citizen, was arrested for planning an attack on behalf of ISIS. Italian officials stated that Halili was planning to use a truck to ram pedestrians, and had been learning to use a knife. He received a two-year suspended prison sentence for instigating terrorism through a pro-ISIS website he ran.
- ◆ [March 29, 2018](#): Five unidentified Tunisian men have been arrested in Rome, Italy, in connection to Anis Amri, who in December 2016 drove a truck into a Christmas market in Berlin, Germany on behalf of ISIS. Four of the men are believed to have been providing false documents and facilitating travel for radicalized Tunisians to Europe, while the fifth is believed to have been plotting an attack.

## **THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR**

### ***ISIS***

#### **Operations Against ISIS**

- ◆ [March 1, 2018](#): An unidentified German man, calling himself Abdul Wadood, was captured by Afghan security forces in Helmand province. He was captured at a bomb-making facility, and is believed to be an advisor to Mullah Nasir, leader of the infamous ISIS group known as “Red Unit.”
- ◆ [March 15, 2018](#): Maxime Hauchard, 26, of Bosc-Roger-en Roumois, France, who joined ISIS and took part in the filmed executions of U.S. aid worker Peter Kassig and others has reportedly been killed.
- ◆ [March 19, 2018](#): Egyptian security services launched a five day operation against ISIS forces in the Sinai Peninsula, killing 36 militants and arresting 345.

#### **Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks**

- ◆ [March 7, 2018](#): Abdul Zaher Haqqani, Nangarhar provincial director of religious affairs, and his bodyguard were killed, and 11 were wounded in a suicide attack. The attack took place in Nangarhar, which borders Pakistan, and has a heavy ISIS presence.
- ◆ [March 13, 2018](#): Seven were killed and 15 wounded in an ISIS attack on a military kitchen in Aden, Yemen. A vehicle loaded with explosives drove near the wall before detonating. The facility is used to train Yemeni forces backed by the UAE.

- ◆ [March 20, 2018](#): Indian officials announced that a mass grave outside of Mosul contained the bodies of the remaining 39 Indian construction workers who went missing in 2014. Harjit Masih, the 40<sup>th</sup> worker, escaped from ISIS shortly after the group was taken captive.
- ◆ [March 21, 2018](#): An ISIS suicide bomber attacked the Sakhi shrine in Kabul, killing 31 and wounding 65. The attack coincided with the start of Nowruz, the New Year festival, and the shrine is particularly significant to Shia Muslims.
- ◆ [March 24, 2018](#): Seven unidentified men in Malaysia were arrested for plotting attacks on non-Muslim places of worship throughout the country. Six of the men were arrested in the southern state of Johor, and the seventh was arrested in the eastern state of Sabah. The cell was well organized, and had direct ties to the Filipino branch of ISIS, Abu Sayyaf.

## ***BOKO HARAM***

### **Operations Against Boko Haram**

- ◆ [March 21, 2018](#): The terrorist group released 104 of the 110 school girls it abducted last month. The Nigerian government denies that any ransom was paid, but stated that they agreed to not stage a military “confrontation” for the girls’ release. One of those released stated that five of the hostages had died while being held.

## ***TALIBAN***

### **Operations Against the Taliban**

- ◆ [March 9, 2018](#): A reported U.S. drone attack left 21 members of the Pakistani Taliban dead, including the son of the group’s chief, Mullah Fazlullah. The compound was a training facility for suicide bombers, and located in southeastern Afghanistan.

### **Recent Taliban Attacks**

- ◆ [March 9, 2018](#): A nighttime assault on an army outpost in Takhar Province, which borders Tajikistan, left 10 dead and nine wounded. Police officers had been assigned to assist the soldiers manning the outpost, and were ambushed on their way to the facility.

## ***AL QAEDA***

### **Operations Against Al Qaeda**

- ◆ [March 24, 2018](#): A U.S. airstrike outside of Ubari, Libya left two terrorists dead. One of those killed was Musa Abu Dawub, a high ranking member of Al Qaeda in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

### **Recent Al Qaeda Attacks**

- ◆ [March 3, 2018](#): Al Qaeda affiliate Jama’*a* Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) launched two coordinated attacks in the capital Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on the army

headquarters and the French embassy. The attack left 16 dead, including four terrorists, and 80 wounded.

- ◆ [March 22, 2018](#): JNIM claimed responsibility for a mortar attack on a UN compound in northern Mali that wounded five. The attack took place prior to a visit from Malian Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga.

## ***AL-SHABAAB***

### **Operations Against Al-Shabaab**

- ◆ [March 21, 2018](#): A U.S. airstrike left two terrorists dead and three wounded in Mubarak, Somalia. AFRICOM did not identify the individuals targeted.

### **Recent Al-Shabaab Attacks**

- ◆ [March 7, 2018](#): Four were killed in a roadside bomb attack on government vehicles near Afgoye, Somalia. The state minister for security of the Southwest Regional State and a state lawmaker from Hirshabelle Regional State and two of their bodyguards were killed in the attack.
- ◆ [March 22, 2018](#): An attack outside a popular hotel in Mogadishu left 14 dead and 22 wounded. A bomb was detonated, and gunmen opened fire on crowds. Civilians, police, and soldiers were all killed in the initial blast.
- ◆ [March 25, 2018](#): Two car bombs left seven dead and five wounded in Mogadishu. One was detonated at a key checkpoint, which leads to a secured area containing the Ministry of the Interior and Parliament. The blast killed six and injured five. The other vehicle detonated near a security checkpoint, killing the driver and wounding a police officer.

## ***SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS***

- ◆ [March 1, 2018](#): Ahmad A., a 27-year-old Palestinian asylum-seeker in Germany, was sentenced to life in prison for attacking civilians at a supermarket in Hamburg in July 2017. Ahmad used a knife from the store to stab a 50-year-old man to death, and wounded six more. No direct ties to ISIS could be confirmed, but he admitted to carrying out the attack in “contribution to the worldwide jihad.”
- ◆ [March 2, 2018](#): Umar Ahmed Haque, 25, Abuthafer Mamun, 29, and Muhammad Abid, 27, all of London, U.K. were charged with plotting to carry out a terrorist attack using children. Haque was in the process of radicalizing 55 children for a multi-faceted attack on 30 businesses and communities in London. Mamun assisted Haque, and attempted to raise money for the attack. Abid was a confidante of Haque, and made no attempt to report his plan to the police. Haque was sentenced to life in prison, Mamun was sentenced to 12 years, and Abid was sentenced to four years and three months.
- ◆ [March 4, 2018](#): Turkish police detained four Iraqi nationals for plotting an attack on the U.S. embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Details of the planned attack were not released, but the embassy was closed for two days as a security precaution.

- ◆ [March 5, 2018](#): Faruq Khalil Muhammad 'Isa, 50, of Canada has pleaded guilty to aiding Iraqi terrorists in an attack that killed five U.S. soldiers and two Iraqi policemen in 2009. Muhammad 'Isa, a Tunisian asylum-seeker who travelled to Canada in 1993, was granted Canadian citizenship. He provided money to Tunisian suicide bombers, and was extradited to the U.S. in 2011. He faces up to 26 years in prison and then deportation.
- ◆ [March 13, 2018](#): Malaysian authorities have arrested 249 individuals, both local and foreign, suspected of recruiting for terrorist organizations through social media platforms.
- ◆ [March 14, 2018](#): A suicide bomber attacked a police checkpoint near Lahore, Pakistan. The post was a security measure for a religious congregation of 60,000 ultra-orthodox Muslims.
- ◆ [March 15, 2018](#): Denis Illarionovs, 24, an Italian citizen born in Riga, Latvia, was arrested for plotting a terrorist attack. Illarionovs planned to bomb a kindergarten. He openly posted threats on social media, and praised Sayfullo Saipov, who ran down pedestrians in a vehicular attack in New York City in October 2017.
- ◆ [March 18, 2018](#): Nasir Nadery, of Kabul, attacked university students in Kabul. Nadery snuck an explosive vest through security into a private compound with students. He attempted to detonate the vest, but it failed. He then detonated a grenade, killing himself and wounding five.