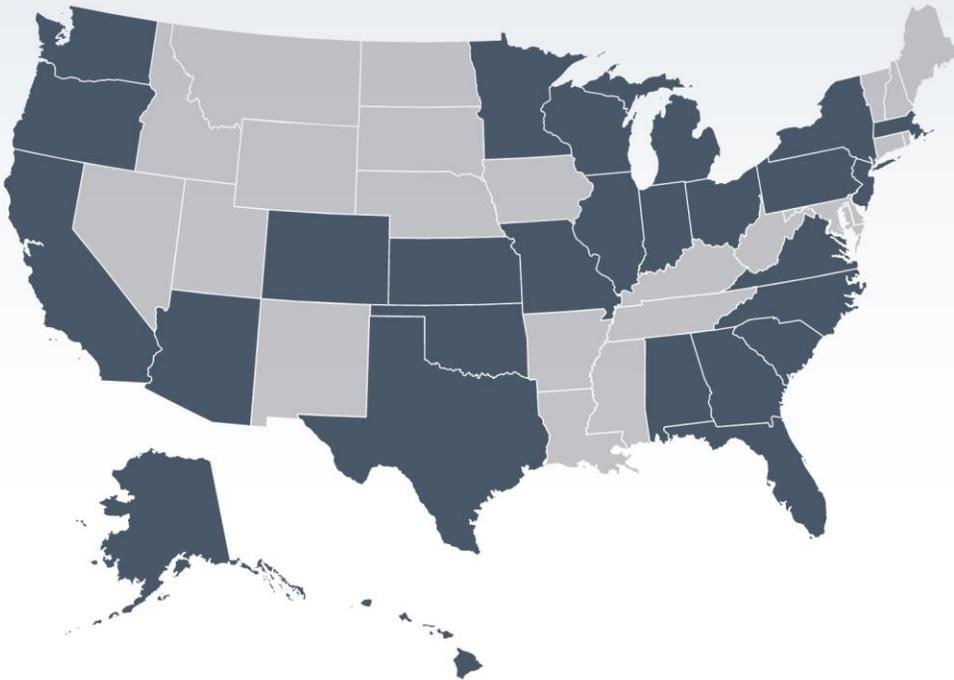


TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

OCTOBER 2018

THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

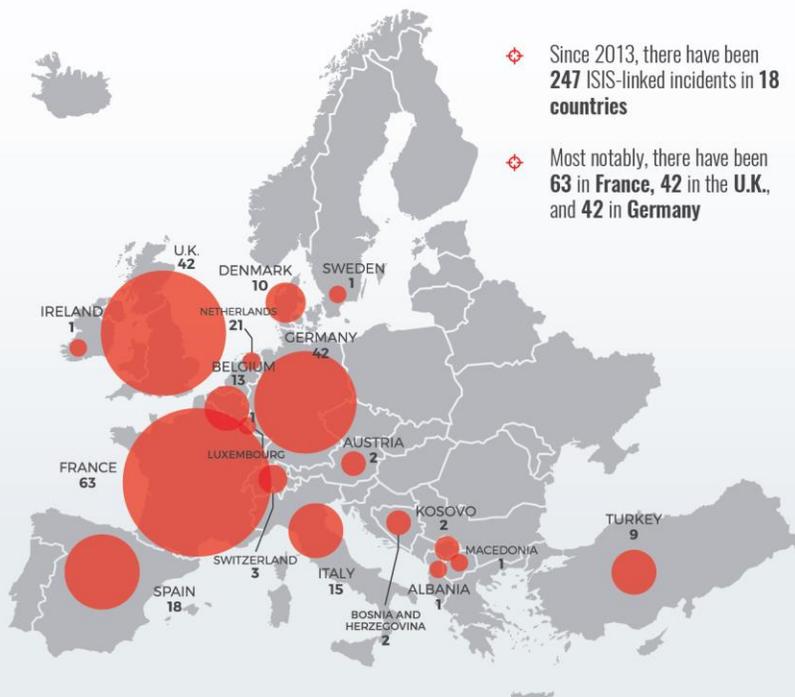


Since 2013, there have been

**159 HOMEGROWN
JIHADIST CASES IN
30 STATES FOR...**

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

ISIS' TERROR CAMPAIGN IN EUROPE



ISIS-LINKED PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST SINCE 2013



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



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



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

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

KEY POINTS¹

- ◆ [September 28, 2018](#): Federal prosecutors announced that they will be seeking the death penalty for Sayfullo Saipov, who conducted the October 31, 2017 vehicle attack on a bike path in New York City that left eight dead.
- ◆ [September 28, 2018](#): Dutch police arrested seven individuals for plotting a “large scale event” in the Netherlands. They seized firearms, including AK-47s, small arms, grenades, completed bombs, and bomb-making materials. Three members of the group had previously been convicted of attempting to travel to join ISIS. The group was targeting two locations with the intent of maximizing the number of casualties.
- ◆ The U.S. Department of the Treasury [designated two individuals as financiers of ISIS](#). Emraan Ali, a Syrian-based, dual U.S. and Trinidadian national, has been funneling money from Trinidad and Tobago to Syria to support the terrorist organization. Eddie Aleong, also a Trinidadian national, assisted in, sponsored, and provided financial support to ISIS.
- ◆ The U.S. Department of State has [designated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin \(JNIM\) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization](#). The Al Qaeda-affiliated group also was designated as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. JNIM is the self-described official Al Qaeda branch in Mali, and the designations will help isolate the group and cut off funding for their operations.
- ◆ British officials have revealed that members of [ISIS-Khorasan are in contact with U.K.-based terrorist cells](#). U.K. Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson stated that the Afghanistan-based arm of ISIS posed a threat to not just the U.K., but also continental Europe.

HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 159 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

Recent Developments

- ◆ [September 5, 2018](#): Laith Alebbini, 28, a Jordanian citizen and U.S. legal permanent resident living in Dayton, Ohio, has waived his right to a trial by jury. Alebbini was arrested in April 2017 while attempting to board a plane at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and was charged with attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- ◆ [September 5, 2018](#): Alexander Ciccolo, 26, of Adams, Massachusetts, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and lifetime supervised release for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Ciccolo pledged allegiance to ISIS and expressed interest in carrying out an attack

¹ Unless otherwise specified, incidents included in this report span September 1 through September 30. All figures are based on open-source and government data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

on the group's behalf. He planned to use pressure cooker explosives and firearms to target places where large numbers of people congregated, such as college cafeterias.

ISIS IN THE WEST

Recent Developments

- ◆ [September 3, 2018](#): One of the two unnamed teenage boys arrested in Sydney, Australia in 2016 for planning to carry out an attack on behalf of ISIS has been found guilty. The two had pledged allegiance to ISIS and were found with large knives in their bags. The extremist views of the two had been known for a while, with the convicted teenager photographed at age 12 holding a sign at a riot that read, "behead all those who insult the prophet."
- ◆ [September 20, 2018](#): Momena Shoma, 25, a Bangladeshi citizen living in Melbourne, Australia on a student visa, pleaded guilty for carrying out an attack on behalf of ISIS. Shoma stabbed her homestay host, Roger Singaravelu, in the neck with a knife while he slept. Singaravelu survived the attack and fled with his daughter.
- ◆ [September 21, 2018](#): Sarah O., 20, a German-Algerian woman living in Germany, was arrested for being in ISIS. Prosecutors claim that she traveled to Syria in October 2013 to join the terrorist group. She participated in recruitment efforts and "guard and police duties."
- ◆ [September 23, 2018](#): Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are holding a man they accuse of being a member of ISIS. Anwar Miah claims he is from Birmingham, England, and that he came to Syria in 2014. Despite working in areas controlled by ISIS, he also claims he is not a member of the terrorist group.
- ◆ [September 26, 2018](#): Danish authorities have arrested two individuals for purchasing drones on behalf of ISIS. The two are believed to be part of a larger network and had purchased the drones to be sent to ISIS for use in Syria or Iraq.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

ISIS

Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [September 5, 2018](#): An unnamed, 25-year-old ISIS member was sentenced to 20 years of hard labor by a Jordanian court for his role in an attack on security forces in 2016. The man and his brother were responsible for acquiring automatic weapons for the group, and turned their home into a bomb factory, which they subsequently detonated after drawing the attention of security services.
- ◆ [September 18, 2018](#): Moroccan security services arrested 12 individuals linked to ISIS. Authorities did not reveal details about the individuals, other than that the group included former prisoners convicted of terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and kidnapping.

- ◆ [September 30, 2018](#): Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced that a large ISIS sleeper cell had been discovered and dismantled in Raqqa, Syria. The SDF killed two members and arrested five in a raid. They believe the group was planning a series of large-scale attacks.

Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [September 1, 2018](#): The ISIS-affiliated Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) attacked a military base in the northeastern town of Zari, Nigeria, killing up to 30 soldiers and wounding 10. The terrorist group split from Boko Haram in 2016.
- ◆ [September 5, 2018](#): Twin bombings targeting a Shiite neighborhood in Kabul killed 20 and wounded at least 70. A suicide bomber detonated his explosive at the center, and a car bomb went off nearby the center. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack and has a history of targeting soft targets in the Shiite area.
- ◆ [September 22, 2018](#): Four gunmen opened fire on an Iranian military parade in Ahvaz, killing 25 and wounding 60. The attackers were dressed in military uniforms and fired on soldiers and civilians. State media claimed that all four attackers were killed, but local deputy governor Ali Hosein Hoseinzadeh claimed that two were killed and two arrested. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack, which bore the hallmarks of previous attacks launched on Iran but did not provide evidence to support their claim. A separatist group, Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz, also claimed responsibility for the bombing.

BOKO HARAM

Recent Boko Haram Attacks

- ◆ [September 5, 2018](#): Militants kidnapped between 10 and 20 people aboard a bus departing from Maiduguri, in Borno State, Nigeria. The bus was en route to Gwoza, near the Cameroon border. One soldier guarding the bus was killed in the attack.
- ◆ [September 8, 2018](#): Militants overran the strategically important town of Gudumbali, Nigeria. The town is home to a military outpost and sits at key crossroads. The military could not provide casualty numbers from the assault on the base, but a resident stated that the terrorists allowed civilians to gather their belongings and flee.

TALIBAN

Operations Against the Taliban

- ◆ [September 23, 2018](#): Pakistani soldiers reportedly conducted a raid on a Pakistani Taliban hideout in North Waziristan on the Afghan border leaving nine militants and seven soldiers dead.

Recent Taliban Attacks

- ◆ [September 17, 2018](#): Taliban fighters attacked Afghan security forces in Farah province, Afghanistan, on the border with Iran. The Taliban has been launching strikes on security checkpoints in less well-secured areas in the region for months. The militants killed up to 17.

AL-SHABAAB

Operations Against Al Shabaab

- ◆ [September 22, 2018](#): U.S. airstrikes killed 18 militants in Lower Juba, Somalia. A joint U.S.-Somali group of soldiers were attacked by the terrorists, two of whom were killed by the ground force, who then called in the airstrike.
- ◆ [September 24, 2018](#): Kenyan soldiers killed 10 Al Shabaab militants during a strike in Lamu county, Kenya.

Recent Al-Shabaab Attacks

- ◆ [September 10, 2018](#): A suicide bomber drove a car armed with an IED into a local government office in Mogadishu, Somalia, killing at least six and wounding 16.
- ◆ [September 22, 2018](#): Militants detonated two vehicle-borne IEDs in Mogadishu, Somalia, wounding two, one of them fatally. The terrorist group stated that they were targeting a police official who escaped.

SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS

- ◆ [September 4, 2018](#): Abdullah Ayman Abdesamea, 24, of Egypt, was arrested outside the U.S. Embassy in Cairo after his backpack caught fire. Abdesamea was walking near the embassy when a bottle in his backpack ignited. Egyptian security services have stated he seems to have embraced extremist ideologies and believe he intended to carry out “an act of aggression.”
- ◆ [September 10, 2018](#): Yusra Bouhaltit Soulimane, 25, of Brussels, Belgium, was officially charged with inciting a terrorist attack after encouraging others to carry out acts of violence during the celebration of the Belgian national soccer team, which placed third in the FIFA World Cup. She sent a photo of the team via Telegraph with text promoting an attack on the day of the celebration at Brussels’ Grand Palace.
- ◆ [September 11, 2018](#): A suicide attack killed 32 and wounded more than 120 at a political demonstration in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. No group has claimed responsibility, and the Taliban denied any involvement when asked.
- ◆ [September 19, 2018](#): Two Moroccan men, aged 27 and 22, arrested in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in June 2018 for plotting terrorist attacks in Rotterdam and Paris, were also targeting Erasmus Bridge in Rotterdam. This previously unknown target was revealed during a pro-forma hearing.

- ◆ [September 21, 2018](#): Assad Ahmad Barakat, a money launderer for Hezbollah, was arrested by Brazilian security services near the border with Paraguay and Argentina. Barakat, a Lebanese national, was designated by the U.S. Treasury Department in 2006.