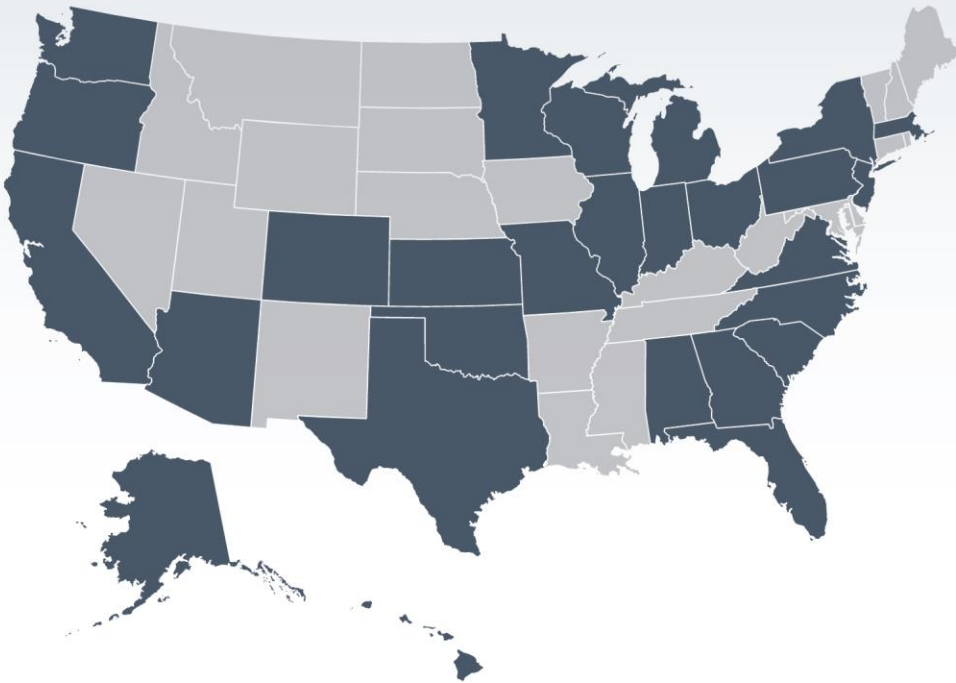


# TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

JULY 2018

## THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

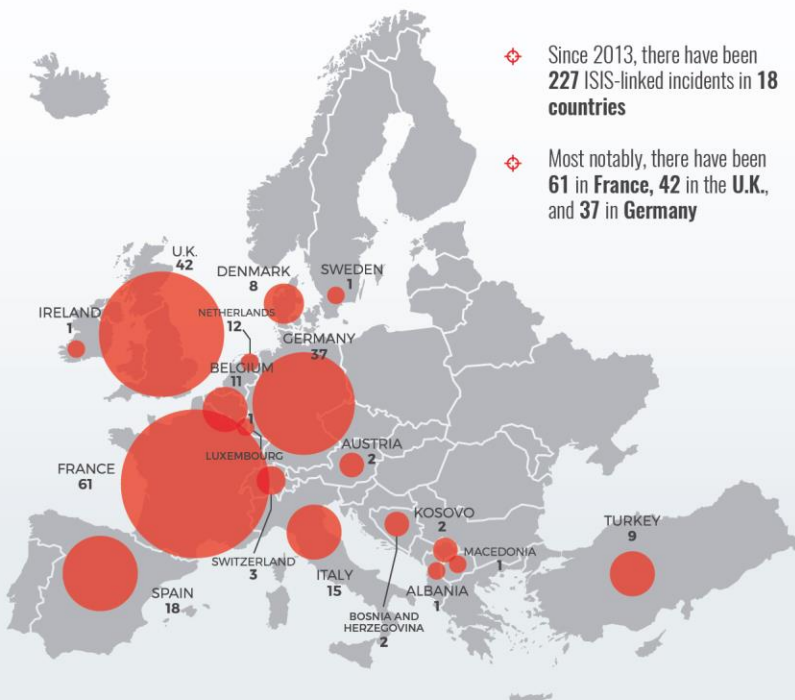


Since 2013, there have been

**154 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



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



**58** 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>

- ◆ [June 27, 2018](#): Ahmed Abu Khatallah, Libyan militia leader, was found guilty on four of 22 charges against him, and sentenced to 22 years in prison for his role in the 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Khatallah was captured by U.S. forces in 2014, and is the first person to be tried and convicted for his part in the attack which left four Americans dead.
- ◆ Europol released its annual [Terrorism Situation and Trend Report](#) (TE-SAT), which outlines and analyzes the trends and tactics used by terrorists in EU member states, and the response by security services. [Key findings from the report include](#), an increase in frequency of jihadist attacks with a decrease in sophistication; homegrown terrorists being the primary perpetrators of terror attacks; and the vital role that online propaganda and social media play in terror recruitment, radicalization, and fundraising.
- ◆ CENTCOM Army Colonel Thomas Veale [described the impact](#) that Operation Roundup has had in Syria, “The increased operational tempo under Operation Roundup includes 225 coalition partner strikes in May. That's a 304 percent increase over March and a 123 percent increase over April strikes. We and our partners have pounded ISIS remnants from the ground and air in relentless pursuit of their leaders and fighters.” He continued, stating that ISIS’ morale is low thanks to increased coalition and partner pressure.
- ◆ June 3 marked one year since the [London Bridge terror attack](#), in which three terrorists attacked crowds with a van and knives, killing eight and wounding 48. The men mounted the curb ramming pedestrians on London Bridge, before exiting the vehicle and stabbing people as they ran through Borough Market. The city of London held a minute of silence during a service on behalf of the victims.
- ◆ [The Russian government reportedly arranged for the departure of radicals](#) by facilitating travel out of Russia, primarily to Turkey. Reports indicate that the Federal Security Service (FSB) targeted men who were radicalized, or had the potential to become radicalized, and provided them with documentation that would allow them to travel to Turkey, and from there south. The apparent counter terror strategy effectively removed experienced militants from within their borders, which could explain the [less sophisticated, single actor attacks](#) that Russia has seen in recent years.

## HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 154 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

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

## Recent Developments

- ◆ [June 1, 2018](#): Vicente Adolfo Solano, 53, a Honduran citizen living in Miami, Florida, was sentenced to 210 months in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Solano planned to detonate an explosive at a mall in Miami on behalf of the terrorist group.
- ◆ [June 4, 2018](#): Everitt Aaron Jameson, 26, of Modesto, California, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Jameson, who was discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps for failing to disclose his history of asthma, voiced support for the terrorist group online and offered to carry out violent acts on their behalf. He also offered to provide financial support for the organization. He has been sentenced to 15 years in prison and lifetime supervision following his release.
- ◆ [June 11, 2018](#): Arafat M. Nagi, 47, of Lackawanna, New York, was sentenced to 15 years in prison and 15 years of supervised release for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Nagi traveled to Turkey in 2012 and 2014, after purchasing a large number of tactical items and weapons, activating a cell phone in Turkey, and was in contact with facilitators to travel to Syria. Community members in Lackawanna alerted authorities to Nagi's radical beliefs and public support for ISIS, resulting in his arrest.
- ◆ [June 13, 2018](#): Waheba Issa Dais, 45, a legal U.S. resident from Israel living in Cudahy, Wisconsin, was arrested and charged with attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Dais provided attack guidance and informational support using a variety of social media accounts. She sent detailed instructions for bomb-making, suicide vest construction, and Ricin recipes, along with suggested targets and methods for carrying out attacks. Dais faces up to 20 years in prison.
- ◆ [June 20, 2018](#): Parveg Ahmed, 22, of Queens, New York, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Ahmed traveled under the false pretense of celebrating a religious holiday to Saudi Arabia before attempting to travel to Syria to join ISIS. He was caught in a country bordering Syria, and deported to New York, where he was arrested.
- ◆ [June 20, 2018](#): Amir Said Rahman Al-Ghazi, 41, of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, was sentenced to 16 years in prison for providing material support to ISIS. Al-Ghazi pledged his support to ISIS on social media, expressed interest in perpetrating an attack on U.S. soil, and attempting to purchase an AK-47.
- ◆ [June 20, 2018](#): Aziz Ihab Sayyed, 23, of Huntsville, Alabama, was sentenced to 15 years in prison followed by lifetime supervised release for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Sayyed shared online ISIS propaganda, and began planning an attack, going so far as to purchase the ingredients for the highly volatile explosive material TATP.
- ◆ [June 21, 2018](#): Jamshid Muhtorov, 40, of Aurora Colorado, and Bakhtiyor Jumaev, age 50, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were both found guilty of providing material support to the Islamic Jihad Union, a terrorist group headquartered in Pakistan. Muhtorov, a refugee from Uzbekistan, swore allegiance to the terrorist group, and was prepared to carry out violent acts in its name. Jumaev provided financial support to the group. Both men were arrested in 2012.
- ◆ [June 25, 2018](#): Asher Abid Khan, 23, of Houston, Texas, was sentenced to 18 months in prison followed by five years of supervision after attempting to travel and join ISIS before backing out of his plan.

## ISIS IN THE WEST

### Recent Developments

- ◆ [June 12, 2018](#): Osama Krayem, 25, a Swedish citizen from Syria, was charged by French authorities for his role in the 2015 attacks in Paris which left 130 dead. Krayem has been in custody in Belgium since his arrest in 2016. He is believed to have been part of the cell which orchestrated the attacks, and facilitated equipment for the group.
- ◆ [June 13, 2018](#): Asim Majid, 29, of West Yorkshire, U.K., was arrested for “arranging money to another person knowing it may be used for terrorism.” Majid arranged to send hundreds of dollars to an individual knowing that they would, or would likely, use the money for terrorist acts. He also was in possession of terrorist publications.
- ◆ [June 13, 2018](#): Sief Allah H, 29, a Tunisian man living in Cologne, Germany, was arrested by German authorities for producing biological weapons. Sief Allah was extracting the deadly toxin ricin from castor beans using a coffee grinder, in preparation of an attack. He was known to security services, and had expressed support for ISIS on social media. German security services reportedly received actionable intelligence from the CIA which was tracking the man.
- ◆ [June 15, 2018](#): Abderrahman Bouanane, 23, a Moroccan asylum-seeker in Finland, was found guilty for carrying out an attack on behalf of ISIS. In August 2017 Bouanane went on a stabbing rampage in Turku, Finland, killing two and wounding eight. He has been sentenced to life in prison.
- ◆ [June 15, 2018](#): Mina Dich, 44, and her daughters Rizlaine Boular, 22, and Safaa Boular, 18, all of London, U.K., were found guilty of preparing acts of terrorism. The three were plotting to carry out knife attacks near the Palace of Westminster. Rizlaine was sentenced to life in prison and Mina was sentenced to six years and nine months. Safaa had been sentenced for a previous terrorism conviction, and will be sentenced for this plot at a later date.
- ◆ [June 18, 2018](#): Nowroz Rayed Amin, 26, of Sydney, Australia, was arrested for planning to travel to a foreign conflict zone to engage in terrorist acts. Amin was barred from traveling to Bangladesh in 2016 after security services found “extremist ideology items” in his luggage. If convicted, he faces life in prison.
- ◆ [June 19, 2018](#): The French government froze the assets of Hani Ramada, a controversial Swiss imam, for six months. Ramadan was included in a list of 16 foreign nationals suspected of having links to terrorist organizations, which was issued by French authorities. He was expelled from France in April 2017, and is barred from re-entry.
- ◆ [June 19, 2018](#): Three unidentified Dutch men aged 26, 30, and 53 have been arrested in the Netherlands on suspicion of being members of ISIS. DNA from all three men was found on firearms discovered in a Parisian suburb that were linked to ISIS.
- ◆ [June 25, 2018](#): An unidentified man was arrested in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg for spreading ISIS propaganda. It was reported that both he and his significant other were in contact with members of the terrorist group.

- ◆ [June 26, 2018](#): Khalid Ali, 28, of London, U.K., was found guilty of “preparing an act of terrorism in the U.K. and two counts of possessing an explosive substance with intent.” Ali traveled to Afghanistan in 2011 and worked as a bomb-maker for the Taliban for five years. He was planning an attack on police and politicians and was arrested on April 27, 2017 armed with knives near Downing Street.

## **THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR**

### ***ISIS***

#### **Operations Against ISIS**

- ◆ [June 12, 2018](#): Filipino armed forces launched pre-emptive strikes on the ISIS-aligned Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) on the island of Mindanao. Filipino authorities report that BIFF was planning several large-scale attacks to coincide with the start of Eid al-Fitr. The operations left 28 militants dead.
- ◆ [June 22, 2018](#): Aman Abdurrahman, the radical ISIS-affiliated cleric responsible for the first ISIS attack in Southeast Asia, was sentenced to death in Jakarta, Indonesia. In 2016 Abdurrahman coordinated a bombing at a Starbucks in Jakarta which left four dead. Authorities state that he was delivering instructions from prison where he was serving a terror-related sentence.

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

- ◆ [June 8, 2018](#): Militants detonated two IEDs near a mosque in a crowded market in Kirkuk, Iraq, killing one and wounding 14.
- ◆ [June 16, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on Taliban and Afghan forces in Nangarhar, Afghanistan, during an Eid al-Fitr ceasefire. Soldiers and militants had gathered to celebrate the end of Ramadan when a car bomb was detonated killing 20. The Taliban immediately denied responsibility.

### ***AL QAEDA***

#### **Operations Against Al Qaeda**

- ◆ [June 14, 2018](#): U.S. forces carried out an airstrike near Bani Walid, Libya, killing one Al Qaeda militant. Authorities have not identified the militant.
- ◆ [June 25, 2018](#): Sami A., former bodyguard to Osama bin Laden, was detained in Bochum, Germany. The Tunisian-born man has been living in Bochum since 1997, and has reportedly been receiving welfare benefits. German authorities plan to deport him as soon as possible.

#### **Recent Al Qaeda Attacks**

- ◆ [June 29, 2018](#): Al Qaeda claimed responsibility for an attack on an African taskforce military base, leaving two soldiers and four militants dead. The G5 Sahel base, used by



Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania, is located in Sevaré, Mali. The attackers used a vehicle-borne IED to breach the outer wall of the compound.

## ***BOKO HARAM***

### **Recent Boko Haram Attacks**

- ◆ [June 15, 2018](#): Three suicide bombers, one man and two girls, attacked a mosque in southeastern Niger, leaving six dead and 37 wounded. The attack occurred as people were gathering to break their Ramadan fast.
- ◆ [June 17, 2018](#): Attacks in Borno state, Nigeria, Boko Harams stated capital, left 20 people dead and 48 wounded. Blasts in two districts 55 miles from Maiduguri, the state capital, went off at night, at least one of which was a rocket, according to witnesses.

## ***TALIBAN***

### **Operations Against the Taliban**

- ◆ [June 15, 2018](#): Mullah Fazlullah, leader of the Pakistani Taliban in the eastern province of Konar, Afghanistan, was killed in a U.S. airstrike along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Fazlullah was behind many attacks targeting civilians, including one on a school in Peshawar which left 140 children and teachers dead.

### **Recent Taliban Attacks**

- ◆ [June 20, 2018](#): Taliban militants attacked a military base in Badghis province, killing 30 Afghan soldiers and capturing the base. The attack, which took place following a three day ceasefire, was part of a larger offensive involving attacks on two other military posts. Afghan authorities state that the terrorists surveilled their targets during the ceasefire, allowing them to strike quickly and effectively.

## ***AL-SHABAAB***

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

- ◆ [June 2, 2018](#): Militants have retaken the town of Muqokori, Somalia after government forces abandoned their posts. Somali forces took the town from Al Shabaab a month prior, and a holding force had been left. The terrorists seized weapons, ammunition, and vehicles.
- ◆ [June 5, 2018](#): Militants ambushed a convoy from Somalia's semi-autonomous state of Hirshabelle, killing two lawmakers and several bodyguards near Mogadishu, Somalia. The militants used RPGs destroying both the politician's vehicle and the military escort.
- ◆ [June 9, 2018](#): The terrorist group claimed responsibility for an attack on U.S. and Somali forces in Kismayo, Somali, which left one U.S. commando dead and four wounded.
- ◆ [June 9, 2018](#): A militant attacked a military base outside of Kismayo, Somalia using a vehicle-borne IED, wounding seven.
- ◆ [June 18, 2018](#): An IED laid by militants killed eight Kenyan police officials in eastern Kenya. The militants stole eight weapons and over 500 rounds of ammunition.

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

- ◆ [June 1, 2018](#): Malaysian authorities arrested 15 for plotting to attack non-Muslim voters at polling stations during the country's general election. The reported mastermind, an unidentified 51-year-old woman, planned to use her car to carry out attacks, and was inspired by ISIS.
- ◆ [June 28, 2018](#): Four members of the Hasam Movement were killed in a firefight with Egyptian police south of Alexandria, Egypt. The four men, and two who police captured, are believed to have been behind the bombing in March which left two policemen dead. Bomb-making materials, weapons, and ammunition have been recovered from one of the arrested suspect's home.
- ◆ [June 30, 2018](#): Four unidentified Kosovars in Kosovo and Germany were arrested for plotting a terror attack. The group was targeting sites in Kosovo, and the three within the country had been in contact with the fourth in Germany. Weapons and ammunition were seized from their homes. Security services have not stated whether they were acting on behalf of a specific terrorist group.