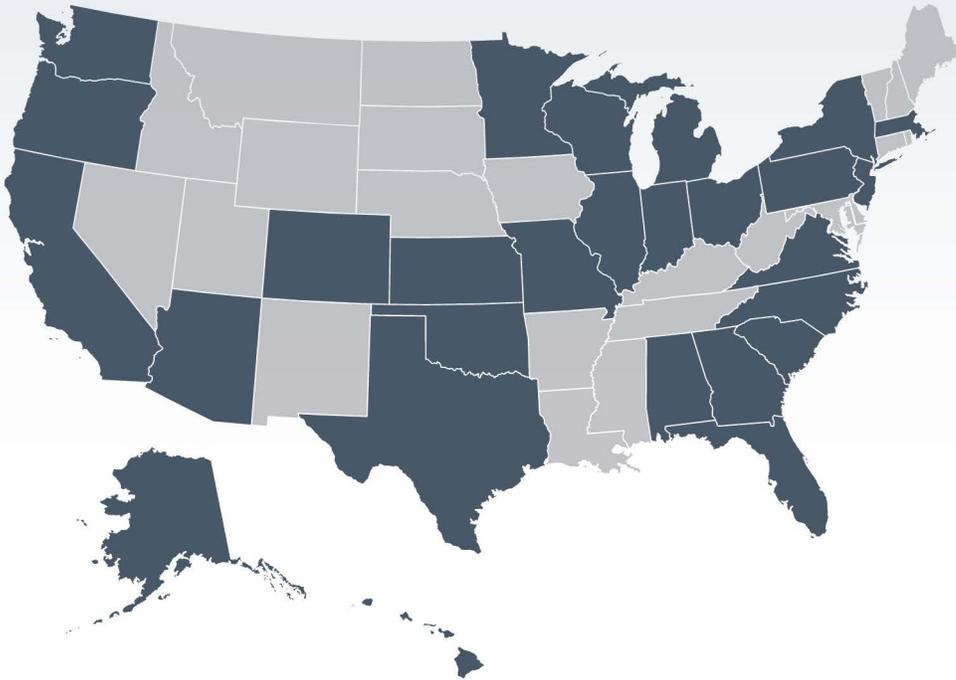


# TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

MAY 2018

## THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

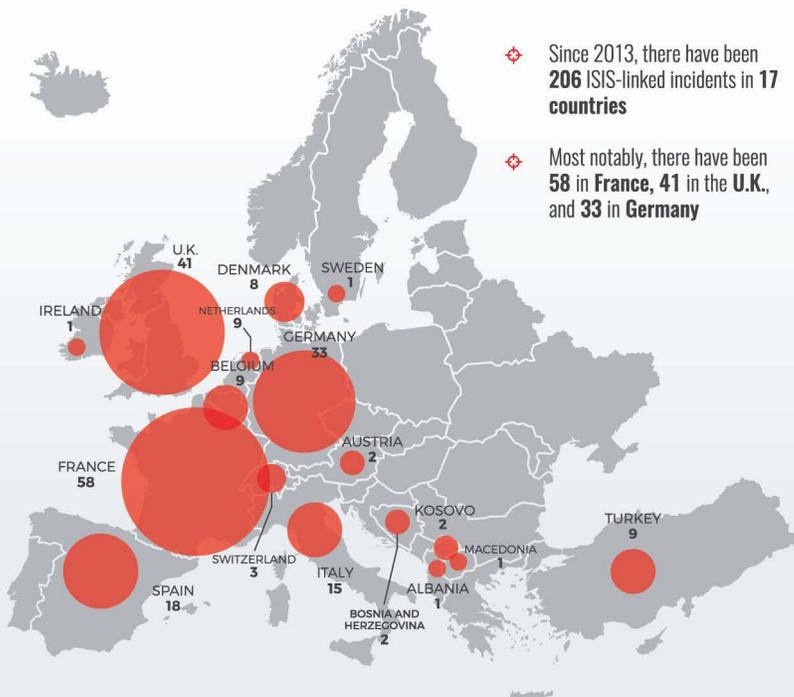


Since 2013, there have been

**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>

- ◆ [April 23, 2018](#): Salah Abdelslam, 28, the last surviving suspect in the 2015 Paris attacks, was sentenced to 20 years in prison by a Belgian court, after being found guilty of the attempted murder of police officers in a shootout with Brussels police officers. Abdelslam did not appear before the court, as he is being held in a high-security facility in northern France, awaiting trial for the Paris attacks.
- ◆ [April 24, 2018](#): Bahrumsyah, the most senior Southeast Asian ISIS commander, was reportedly killed in U.S. airstrikes in eastern Syria. Bahrumsyah, an Indonesian national, led a unit of approximately 100 Southeast Asians, and organized funding for the ISIS rebels who held the city of Mawai in the Philippines in 2017. ISIS supporters initially reported his death via social media, although government officials have not confirmed it yet.
- ◆ [April 30, 2018](#): ISIS carried out two coordinated suicide bombings. The first attacker detonated his explosive and after police had cordoned off the site, a second bomber detonated his vest. The second bomber was disguised as a journalist, and mingled with members of the press who were covering the first attack. The attack is the deadliest for journalists since the U.S. entered the country in 2001.

## 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

- ◆ [April 9, 2018](#): Sean Andrew Duncan, 22, of Sterling, Virginia, pleaded guilty to obstructing a counterterrorism investigation. Duncan altered, destroyed, mutilated, or concealed a thumb drive and memory chip in an attempt to obstruct an FBI terrorism investigation. He will be sentenced in July, and is facing between 15 to 20 years in prison.
- ◆ [April 12, 2018](#): Ibrahim Zubair Mohammad, 38, a lawful permanent resident from India living in Toledo, Ohio; Asif Ahmed Salim, 38, of Columbus, Ohio; and Sultane Room Salim, 43, of Columbus, Ohio, pleaded guilty to concealment of financing of terrorism. The men provided funds to Anwar Al-Awlaki in 2009, and lied to investigators when questioned.
- ◆ [April 12, 2018](#): Wesley Dallas Ayers, 27, of Anderson County, South Carolina, was indicted on charges including transportation of explosive materials with the intent to injure, possession and use of destructive devices during the commission of a violent crime and use of a destructive device during the commission of a felony. After Ayers was charged in

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

March with possession of an unregistered firearm, FBI agents discovered several explosive devices in and around his home. They also found several notes pledging allegiance to ISIS.

- ◆ [April 22, 2018](#): Aws Mohammed Younis Al-Jayab, 25, who in 2016 was arrested and charged with making a false statement involving international terrorism, has not qualified for immunity, according to federal prosecutors. Al-Jayab's defense claimed that he should qualify for immunity, which most often applies to soldiers in national armies, and claimed that he fought for militias backed by the U.S. The court ruled that he does not qualify for immunity, as he fought for numerous terrorist organizations.

## ISIS IN THE WEST

### Recent Developments

- ◆ [April 4, 2018](#): Abid Podbicanin, Sead Plojovic, Tefik Mujovic, Goran Pavlovic, Iznudin Crnovrcanin, Rejhan Plojovic, and Ferat Kasumovic, all of Belgrade, Serbia, were all found guilty for acts of terrorism including training for terrorist acts, terrorist financing, and public incitement to commit terrorist acts by the Higher Court in Belgrade. Authorities found connections between the men and several terrorist organizations, including ISIS. Podbicanin, Pavlovic and Plovic were tried in absentia, and are believed to be on the run. The men received between seven and a half and 11 year sentences.
- ◆ [April 6, 2018](#): Aweys Shikhey, 38, of London, U.K., was sentenced to eight years in prison for preparing for acts of terrorism. Shikhey and his wife attempted to travel and join ISIS. Kenyan authorities contacted British security services after finding communications between militants referencing Shikhey on a seized laptop during a separate investigation.
- ◆ [April 9, 2018](#): Three men and three women have been detained for the murder of two police officers by members of ISIS in 2016 in Magnanville, France. One of the women is a police officer, who was questioned in 2016, but released. She hosted a woman on a police radicalization watch-list, at the request of her daughter, who has also been detained.
- ◆ [April 10, 2018](#): Ten members of an ISIS cell who planned attacks in Barcelona, Spain have been sentenced. The three leaders were given 12 years in prison, while the other seven received eight years. The cell was comprised of five Moroccans, four Spaniards, and a Brazilian.
- ◆ [April 10, 2018](#): Bosnian authorities arrested two ISIS members who appear to have been planning an attack in Sarajevo. Security services raided two properties, and seized guns, ammunition, grenades, knives and ISIS flags.
- ◆ [April 13, 2018](#): Three male Syrian refugees have been detained in Saarland, Germany on suspicion of ties to ISIS. Two of the men are considered by police to be a "terrorist threat." The investigation into the men, which has been ongoing for six months, started when an employee at the refugee center outside Saarland reported having seen videos of the men dressed in combat uniforms brandishing weapons and explosives.
- ◆ [April 13, 2018](#): A 19-year-old Austrian man of Albanian descent was sentenced to nine years in prison for plotting two attacks on behalf of ISIS in Germany. The unidentified man was sentenced in Vienna, Austria, for coercing a 12-year-old German-Iraqi boy to

target a Christmas market in Ludwigshafen, Germany using an explosive belt. The belt failed to detonate. The man also incited his wife to attack Ramstein Air Base, however she had not attempted to carry out the attack when he was arrested.

- ◆ [April 18, 2018](#): Ahmed Alsyed, 20, of London, was sentenced to four-and-a-half years for preparation of terrorist acts and dissemination of terrorist publications. Alsyed is part of a larger group which planned to travel to Syria to join ISIS. Alsyed's brother, Yousif Alsyed, also pleaded guilty, and will be sentenced at a later date.
- ◆ [April 19, 2018](#): A Belgian judge has ruled that Mehdi Nemmouche, 33, of France, will stand trial for his role in the 2014 attack on a Jewish museum in Brussels that left four dead.
- ◆ [April 20, 2018](#): Mohammad Haydar Zammar, a Syrian-born German national, was detained in Syria by the Syrian Democratic Forces for assisting ISIS. Zammar was identified in [The 9/11 Commission Report](#), and is believed to have had ties to Mohamed Atta, the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks ringleader. Zammar also is suspected of having recruited some of the attackers personally.
- ◆ [April 26, 2018](#): Alagie Touray, 21, a Gambian asylum-seeker, was arrested in Licola, Italy for plotting an attack on behalf of ISIS. Touray made a video swearing allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and sent messages over Telegram, the encrypted messaging application, telling others that he was "on a mission."

## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

### *ISIS*

#### Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [April 9, 2018](#): Qari Hikmatullah, the senior ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) commander, and his bodyguard, were killed in a U.S. airstrike in Faryab province, Afghanistan, which borders Turkmenistan. Hikmatullah was the primary facilitator of ISIS-K fighters into Afghanistan.
- ◆ [April 18, 2018](#): Egypt's military has claimed that Naser Abou Zaqoul, leader of ISIS in the Sinai, was killed in a shootout with troops. No specifics were provided, but the announcement followed a few days after ISIS militants attacked an Egyptian military base in Sinai.

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

- ◆ [April 3, 2018](#): ISIS gunmen attacked a Christian family in Quetta, Pakistan, killing four. The family was travelling by rickshaw, when gunmen on motorcycles opened fire. Security services believe that the attack was targeted, as the area is primarily Christian.
- ◆ [April 13, 2018](#): An ISIS attack on a funeral for five anti-ISIS militiamen left 16 dead and 14 wounded in northern Iraq. The terrorists used two IEDs to target the procession as it entered the cemetery. The five men had been killed the previous day in a night-time attack on their military convoy.
- ◆ [April 15, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on an Egyptian army base in the Sinai, which left eight dead and 15 wounded.

- ◆ [April 22, 2018](#): An ISIS suicide bomber attacked a voter registration center in Kabul, killing 57 and wounding more than 100.
- ◆ [April 24, 2018](#): Attacks by militants across Afghanistan left 11 Afghan soldiers and policemen dead. Five soldiers were killed and two wounded in an attack on a checkpoint in Farah province. Four policemen were killed and seven wounded in Ghazni province during an attack on a security post. In Baghdis province, two policemen were killed and six soldiers captured in coordinated attacks on multiple checkpoints.

## ***AL QAEDA***

### **Recent Al Qaeda Attacks**

- ◆ [April 20, 2018](#): Al Qaeda's Malian branch, Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM), launched an attack on the airport in Timbuktu, Mali. The airport houses UN peacekeeping forces, as well as French military support. Three suicide car bombers disguised as UN and Malian army vehicles entered the airport grounds, and two of them detonated. Terrorists disguised as UN peacekeepers then opened fire with guns, while rockets and mortars were fired at the base. One peacekeeper was killed, seven French soldiers were killed, and 10 were wounded in the attack.

## ***BOKO HARAM***

### **Recent Boko Haram Attacks**

- ◆ [April 2, 2018](#): Militants attacked a military base and two villages in northern Nigeria, killing 14 civilians and one soldier, and wounding 83. The terrorists used car bombs and guns, and shifted focus from the military base to the villages when they were unable to penetrate the compound.
- ◆ [April 24, 2018](#): Boko Haram militants attacked launched a series of attacks in Borno state, northeastern Nigeria, killing 21 in total. The terrorists attacked forest workers collecting firewood, killing 18, and a civilian vehicle hit a mine killing three and wounding 11.

## ***TALIBAN***

### **Operations Against the Taliban**

- ◆ [April 18, 2018](#): A federal appeals court upheld the life sentence for Irek Hamidullin, a Russian national convicted of leading a Taliban attack on U.S. forces in 2009. Hamidullin's attorney claimed that he should receive combatant immunity, however the three-judge panel struck down the appeal, as the conflict by that time had shifted from an international armed conflict between the U.S. and the Taliban-controlled army, to a non-international conflict against unlawful Taliban insurgents.

### **Recent Taliban Attacks**

- ◆ [April 18, 2018](#): A Taliban militant attacked security services in southern Kandahar province, Afghanistan. The terrorist placed a sticky bomb on the police commander's vehicle, and the ensuing blast killed five, including the commander.

## ***AL-SHABAAB***

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

- ◆ [April 2, 2018](#): A U.S. airstrike in El Burr, Somalia left five terrorists and destroyed a vehicle.
- ◆ [April 11, 2018](#): A U.S. airstrike targeting a vehicle-borne IED in Jana Cabdalle, Somalia successfully destroyed the vehicle before it could be used in an attack.

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

- ◆ [April 1, 2018](#): Al-Shabaab insurgents launched a series of coordinated attacks centered around an African Union (AU) base in Bulamarer, Somalia. Two suicide car bombs were detonated targeting an AU vehicle and a Somali military vehicle. Following the initial attacks, gunmen began firing on the base, and nearby villages. No official number of casualties has been released, but Ugandan military officials state that according to the Ugandans stationed at the AU base, four Ugandans died in the attack.
- ◆ [April 13, 2018](#): An attack at a soccer stadium in Barawe, Somalia left five dead and 12 wounded. Al-Shabaab used a remote-detonated explosive, and appeared to target onlookers, who were the only ones injured or killed.

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

- ◆ [April 19, 2018](#): Adam Wyatt, 48, of Manchester, U.K., was sentenced to three years and nine months for owning and disseminating terrorist publications. Wyatt shared terrorist handbooks outlining methods of attack, and encouraged others to carry them out.
- ◆ [April 20, 2018](#): A roadside bomb killed five civilians and wounded 10 in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. No organization has claimed responsibility for the attack, and both the Taliban and ISIS-K operate in the region.