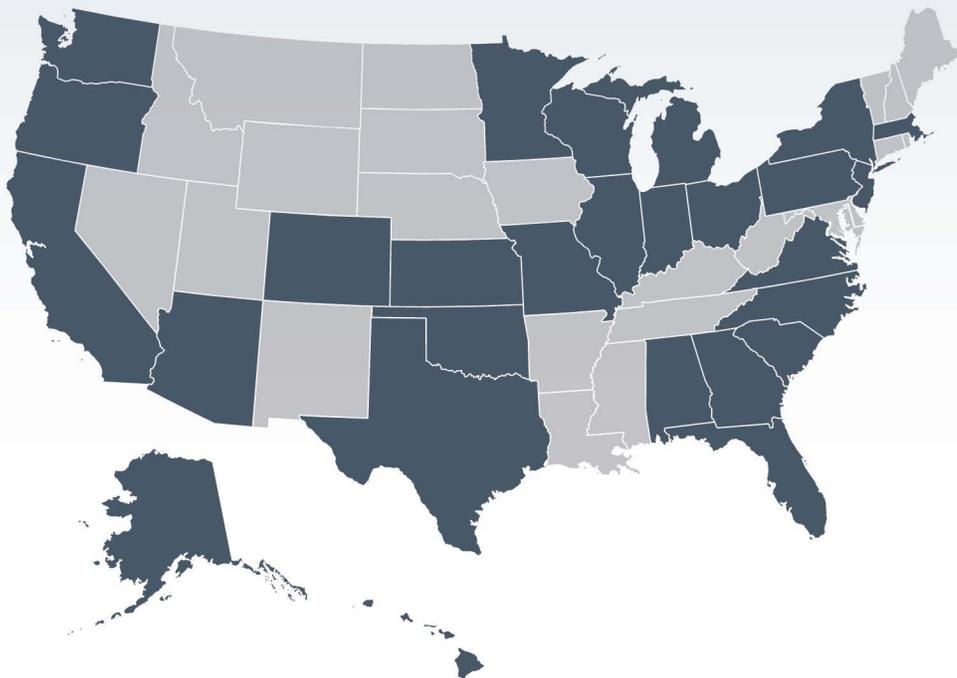


TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

SEPTEMBER 2018

THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

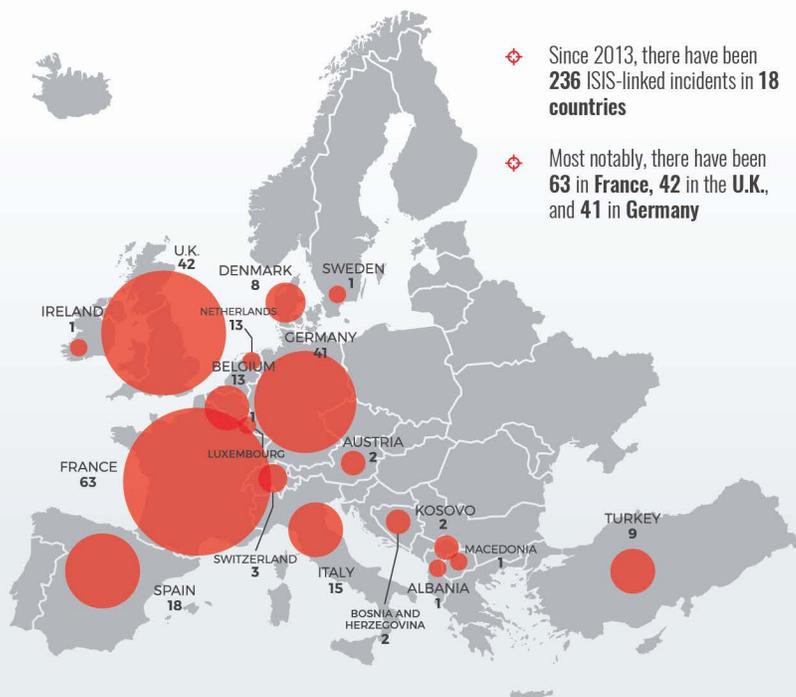


Since 2013, there have been

**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



82 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

- ◆ [Breaking - August 31, 2018](#): Two Americans were seriously injured in a stabbing attack at the main train station in Amsterdam that Dutch officials said had a “terrorist motive.” The attacker was identified as 19-year-old Jawad S., an Afghan asylum seeker who had traveled to the station from Germany. He is being held in Dutch custody pending trial.
- ◆ [August 9, 2018](#): Mounir el-Motassadeq, a Moroccan man involved in the “Hamburg Cell” which provided support for the September 11th attacks is set to be released from prison in Germany three months earlier than planned. Motassadeq will be flown to Morocco upon his release.
- ◆ [August 11, 2018](#): Mohamed Abdirahman Osman, 28, and his wife were arrested in in Tucson, Arizona and charged with falsifying immigration documents, including omitting Osman’s prior involvement with al-Shabab. The indictment indicates that Osman moved from Jijiga, Ethiopia to Mogadishu, Somalia at the direction of al-Shabab and was injured in a bomb blast at a Somali market in 2010.
- ◆ [August 13, 2018](#): Qassim Abdullah Ali Ahmed has been designated by the State Department as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) for his role as a leader in the Iranian-backed Al Ashtar Brigades, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization. Ahmed has worked to overthrow the government of Bahrain by recruiting terrorists, facilitating weapons explosives training, and providing funding. The SDGT designation will freeze any assets under U.S. jurisdiction and prevents U.S. persons from engaging in any transactions with him.
- ◆ [August 13, 2018](#): Fazliddin Kurbanov, an Uzbek refugee serving a 25-year sentence in Victorville, California for plotting an attack on behalf of a foreign terrorist organization, has been sentenced to an additional 20 years for attempting to slash the prison warden’s throat. The warden survived the attack.
- ◆ [August 21, 2018](#): Ibrahim al-Asiri, chief Al Qaeda bomb-maker, was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen. He was reportedly one of the most sophisticated terrorist bomb-makers on the planet and was behind several high-profile incidents such as the 2009 Christmas Day attempt to down a plane over Detroit using an “underwear bomb.” Asiri was also designing bombs to be hidden in laptops and mobile devices, resulting in the TSA requiring individuals to remove electronics from carry-on bags during screening.
- ◆ [August 22, 2018](#): Baghdadi offers proof of life—The leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, released an audio message calling for more homeland attacks in the West. Contents of the speech, Baghdadi’s first in nearly a year, indicated it was recently recorded as it made note of the recent disagreement between the U.S. and Turkey over jailed American pastor Andrew Brunson.
- ◆ [August 22, 2018](#): Magomed-Ali C., 31, a Russian citizen living in Berlin, Germany, was arrested on suspicion of planning a terror attack somewhere in Germany. He is reported to be an accomplice of Clement B., who was arrested in Marseille, France in 2017 for

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

planning to carry out a terror attack on behalf of ISIS. Clement B. was found in possession of several firearms and 6.6 pounds of highly explosive TATP.

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

- ◆ [August 1, 2018](#): Asher Abid Khan, 23, of Spring, Texas, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for providing material support to ISIS. Khan planned to travel to join the terrorist organization and helped others network with the group. Khan traveled to Turkey but returned home when his family tricked him into thinking that his mother had been hospitalized. The Department of Justice has appealed the unusually short sentence handed down by the judge and has argued that most sentences have been between eight and 15 years.
- ◆ [August 6, 2018](#): Everitt Aaron Jameson, 27, of Modesto, California, was sentenced to 15 years in prison and life term of supervised release for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Jameson expressed support for the terrorist group on several occasions, including the October 31, 2017 attack in New York City. He told an undercover agent that he was fully supportive of “the cause” and showed interest in carrying out an attack.
- ◆ [August 8, 2018](#): Zakaryia Abdin, 19, of Ladson, South Carolina, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Abdin was arrested by the FBI at Charleston International Airport in March 2017 when he attempted to travel overseas to join the terrorist group.
- ◆ [August 10, 2018](#): A federal appeals court upheld the sentences of Mohamed Farah, 24, and Abdirahman Daud, 24, who were sentenced to 30 years, and Guled Ali Omar, 23, who was sentenced to 35 years. They are three of the nine men convicted in a 2016 ISIS recruitment operation. The effort by the Twin Cities cell remains one of the largest terrorist recruitment operations disrupted by security services. The other six members of the cell successfully reached Syria and joined ISIS.
- ◆ [August 10, 2018](#): Fares Muhammad Shraiteh, 21, a Chicago native now living in Israel, was indicted for attempting to travel to join ISIS. Shraiteh traveled with two other individuals from Chicago to Egypt, and from there to Turkey. Shraiteh was denied entry, however the other two were granted entry and successfully reached ISIS.
- ◆ [August 20, 2018](#): Marlonn Hicks, 31, an Indiana native, was sentenced to 15 years in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, for distributing information regarding the manufacture and use of explosives with the intent to use such information for violent acts. According to court documents, Hicks transformed from an online ISIS supporter to someone actively planning a terrorist attack within days after the Florida Pulse Nightclub terrorist attack in 2016.
- ◆ [August 22, 2018](#): Basit Javed Sheikh, 29, a Pakistani native living in North Carolina, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to Al-Nusrah Front, the Al Qaeda-

affiliated group that was operating in Syria. Sheikh was arrested at Raleigh-Durham International Airport in November 2013 attempting to travel to join the terror group.

- ◆ [August 21, 2018](#): Ikaika Erik Kang, a Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Army, withdrew his not guilty plea and pleaded guilty to attempting to support ISIS. In late June and early July of 2018, Kang attempted to provide classified military documents to undercover agents whom he believed were ISIS fighters. According to court documents, Kang would watch beheading and other violent videos for hours every day and indicated to informants that he would be willing to carry out a suicide bomb attack at Schofield Barracks outside Honolulu.
- ◆ [August 22, 2018](#): Samantha Marie Elhassani, aka Samantha Sally, 32, formerly of Elkhart, Indiana, was charged with conspiring to provide material support to ISIS and aiding individuals in their pursuit to join ISIS. According to prosecutors, Elhassani knowingly supported two ISIS fighters by supplying tactical gear and providing funds from the fall of 2014 through the summer of 2015.
- ◆ [August 23, 2018](#): Samuel Baptiste, 25, of Miami, Florida, was indicted by a Grand Jury for the following: four counts of distributing information regarding explosives, one count attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, and one count attempting to provide material support to terrorists. According to prosecutors, on November 6th, 2016, Baptiste posted and distributed online documents indicating how to make IEDs with the intent for the information to be used for violent activity by a foreign terrorist organization, specifically ISIS. Baptiste is currently serving in prison for federal firearms charges.

ISIS IN THE WEST

Recent Developments

- ◆ [August 1, 2018](#): Momena Shoma, 25, a Bangladeshi student living in Melbourne, Australia, who is on trial for attacking her landlord, admitted to traveling to Australia with the intention of killing someone on behalf of ISIS. Shoma stabbed her landlord while he slept, and stated that she, “attempted murder,” and wished to, “trigger the West.” The morning of the attack she downloaded ISIS propaganda videos and had practiced by stabbing the pillow repeatedly at her last homestay.
- ◆ [August 3, 2018](#): Safaar Boular, 18, of Vauxhall, U.K., was sentenced to life in prison for planning a terror attack on behalf of ISIS. Boular, who was in custody for previous ISIS-related charges, planned an attack with her mother and sister, who [were sentenced](#) in June of this year.
- ◆ [August 3, 2018](#): Sief Allah H., 29, a Tunisian man living in Cologne, Germany, who in June 2018 was arrested for plotting to carry out an attack using Ricin, has been formally charged by German authorities with planning to carry out a biological terror attack in Germany. Sief Allah made contact with an ISIS handler in September and October 2017 and was encouraged to carry out the attack on behalf of the terrorist group. Two Tunisian men connected to the plot were arrested in Tunisia.
- ◆ [August 8, 2018](#): Dasbar W., 29, a German citizen, was charged with supporting and recruiting for ISIS by participating in multiple chats with ISIS members and distributing propaganda videos through several internet platforms. In 2016, he joined the Islamic State in Iraq as a member where he was trained in the use of a sniper rifle and assisted in spying

on the Prime Minister's building in Erbil, Iraq for a possible future terrorist attack. Dasbar W. returned to Germany in 2017 and began planning a terrorist attack on behalf of ISIS.

- ◆ [August 10, 2018](#): Lewis Ludlow, 26, of Kent, U.K., pleaded guilty to plotting to carry out an attack on behalf of ISIS. Ludlow planned to rent a van and hit pedestrians in London, stating that he had hoped to kill 100 people. He was arrested in 2015 when he attempted to travel to the Philippines and police found that he was in contact with a known ISIS member.
- ◆ [August 14, 2018](#): Kristian Michelsen, 34, a Norwegian national was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison for traveling to Syria to fight for ISIS from November 2014 to April 2015. According to the lawyers in the case, Michelsen spent the longest time fighting for ISIS of all Norwegian fighters in Syria. Michelsen fled from the group in April 2016, but was arrested in Turkey before being deported to Norway.
- ◆ [August 23, 2018](#): Raad A., 42, and Abbas R., 19, were indicted by German authorities, accused of being members of ISIS and participating in the execution of a high-ranking Iraqi official in 2014. According to German prosecutors, Raad A. was an ISIS accountant in Mosul since June 2014, while Abbas R. performed patrols and transported weapons and bodies of ISIS victims.
- ◆ [August 27, 2018](#): Mohammed G., of the Netherlands, was accused of being involved in the kidnapping of a British couple in South Africa and contacting the highest-ranking ISIS spokesman in Africa. Earlier this year, the bodies of a British couple were discovered after going missing in South Africa's northeast KwaZulu-Natal province. The kidnapping was suspected to be carried out by ISIS members, as an ISIS flag was raised in the region where the couple was found.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

ISIS

Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [August 6, 2018](#): Lahcen Gueboudj, 58, of France, and a German woman identified only as Nadia, were both sentenced to life in prison by the Baghdad central criminal court in Iraq for being members of ISIS. Nadia and her mother, who was also sentenced to life in prison, were arrested in July 2017 in Mosul.
- ◆ [August 11, 2018](#): Yevgeny Yefimov, 18, of St. Petersburg, Russia, was sentenced to five years in a "strict-regime penal colony" for plotting to carry out an attack on behalf of ISIS. Yefimov planned to carry out a suicide attack on Kazan cathedral in St. Petersburg, and was arrested in December 2017, thanks in part to intelligence provided to Russian security services by the CIA.
- ◆ [August 28, 2018](#): U.S. Africa Command carried out an airstrike against the Islamic State in Libya, killing one suspected militant. The strike was conducted in the town of Bani Wald, located 93 miles south of the capital Tripoli.

Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [August 15, 2018](#): A suicide bomber attacked a school in a Hazara neighborhood of Kabul, killing 48 and wounding 67. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack and have targeted Hazara communities in the past.
- ◆ [August 26, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on an Egyptian police checkpoint in Sinai, Egypt. According to Egypt's state media agency, MENA, security forces killed four militants at a checkpoint west of the city of al-Arish. MENA did not indicate any casualties among security forces, but a privately owned newspaper indicated that four police officers had been killed.
- ◆ [August 20, 2018](#): ISIS fighters attacked Chechen police officers and security checkpoints in Grozny and Shali, Russia. The attackers were reported of being aged between 11 and 17. After multiple coordinated attacks, one police officer and five assailants were reported killed. On August 21, ISIS' Amaq news agency released a video of four boys, involved in the attack, pledging allegiance to ISIS and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

AL QAEDA

Operations Against Al Qaeda

- ◆ [August 2, 2018](#): Abdurahman Kaabar, 23, of Sheffield, U.K., was found guilty of sending money to Syrian-based, Al Qaeda affiliate, Jabhat al Fateh al Sham. Kaabar, who earlier this month pleaded guilty to 15 charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, sent money to his brother Mohammed Kaabar, who left the U.K. to join Jabhat al Fateh al Sham in March 2016.
- ◆ [August 12, 2018](#): Sultan Ould Bady, an experienced terrorist involved in multiple branches of both Al Qaeda and ISIS, surrendered to Algerian forces in southern Algeria. The move was part of a joint operation between France, Mali, and Algeria which grants terrorists amnesty in an effort to curtail operations in the Sahel.

BOKO HARAM

Recent Boko Haram Attacks

- ◆ [August 9, 2018](#): Militants ambushed soldiers and aid workers in Borno state, Nigeria, killing 15 soldiers and one aid worker.
- ◆ [August 19, 2018](#): Militants attacked the village of Mailari, Nigeria, located in Borno state, a Boko Haram stronghold, killing at least 19 people according to a survivor, although an aid worker reported the death toll at 63.

TALIBAN

Recent Taliban Attacks

- ◆ [August 19, 2018](#): An extended assault by over 1,000 Taliban forces overran the city of Ghazni, Afghanistan. The attack began on August 10th and Taliban militants stormed

government buildings, torched police stations, and seized the central prison. Approximately 250 civilians were killed in the attack, and hundreds more were wounded. Government forces eventually drove the attackers out of Ghazni, but much of the city has been destroyed.

- ◆ [August 20, 2018](#): Taliban militants took three buses, carrying roughly 150 passengers, hostage in Kunduz province, Afghanistan. Security services managed to secure the release of most of the passengers, but approximately 20 hostages remain.
- ◆ [August 21, 2018](#): Militants launched several rockets towards the diplomatic area of Kabul. They coordinated the attack with a speech marking the beginning of the Eid al-Adha holiday by President Ashraf Ghani, who was in the vicinity. Two were reported wounded.

AL-SHABAAB

Operations Against Al Shabaab

- ◆ [August 17, 2018](#): Military forces associated with the semiautonomous Puntland, in Somalia, have retaken the strategically located town of Af Urur. The town sits on key major roads linking cities throughout Somalia.
- ◆ [August 21, 2018](#): U.S. forces in Africa conducted an airstrike against Al-Shabaab militants killing two terrorists, in coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia. The air strike was carried out 46 kilometers northeast of Kismayo, Somalia.

Recent Al-Shabaab Attacks

- ◆ [August 8, 2018](#): A Kenyan army truck hit an IED in Lamu county, Kenya, in an attack claimed by Al-Shabaab. A county official claimed that five soldiers were killed in the attack, while a Kenya Defence Force spokesman stated that six soldiers were injured, two severely so.

SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS

- ◆ [August 3, 2018](#): Two militants attacked a mosque in eastern Afghanistan killing 39 and wounding over 80 during Friday night prayers. Both men wore burkas to conceal their faces, and one detonated his suicide vest before the other opened fire with an automatic weapon. No terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attack.
- ◆ [August 11, 2018](#): Egyptian security services foiled an attack on a Christian church north of Cairo. A man wearing an explosive belt was denied entry to the church and detonated the explosive outside. The attacker died, and no one was harmed in the attempted attack.
- ◆ [August 12, 2018](#): Militants used an IED to attack a Jordanian police van in Salt, Jordan, killing one policeman and wounding six. Following the attack, security services laid siege to a building in which the terrorists were hiding. A shootout ensued, and one of the attackers detonated a suicide vest. Three militants were killed in the raid, and four security personnel were killed. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.
- ◆ [August 12, 2018](#): An attack by Islamist extremists left five police officers and one civilian dead in Boungou and Ougarou, Burkina Faso. A police vehicle escorting workers

to a mining site struck an IED. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities have reported an uptick in extremists who have trained in neighboring Mali.

- ◆ [August 16, 2018](#): Gunmen attacked an Afghan intelligence training center in Kabul. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but both gunmen were killed by security services. Casualty numbers have not been reported.
- ◆ [August 20, 2018](#): Abdelouahab Taib, 29, an Algerian man living in Spain, attacked a police station with a large knife, attempting to stab officers. Taib reportedly was yelling in Arabic and shouted “Allahu Ackbar” before lunging at officers. He was shot and killed.