



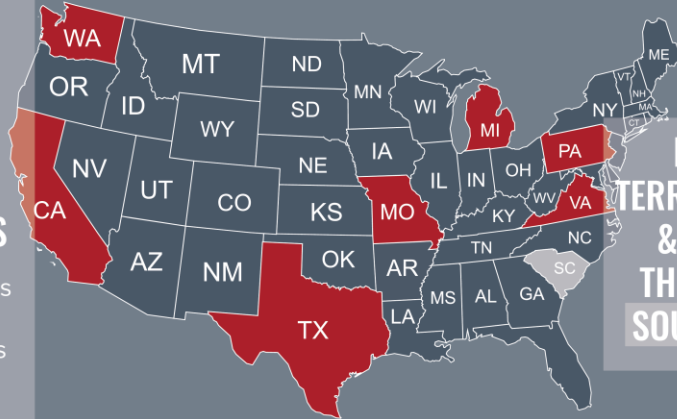
**THE ISIS TERROR THREAT IN AMERICA
SO FAR IN 2016...**

**8 PEOPLE
ARRESTED IN..**

7 STATES FOR..

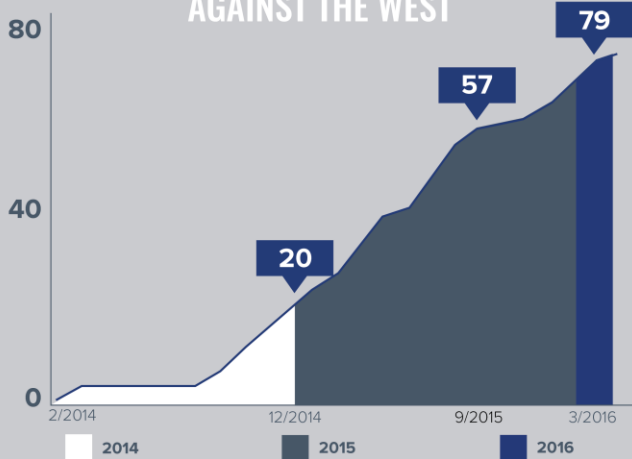
4 TYPES OF ACTS

- Attack plots/threats
- Overseas travel
- Lying to authorities
- Weapons charges



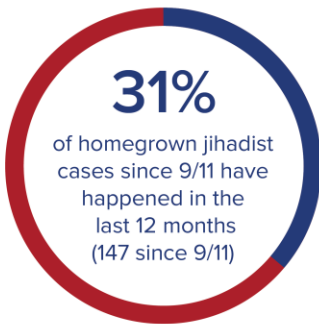
**ISIS CONTROLS
TERRITORY IN IRAQ
& SYRIA NEARLY
THE LAND SIZE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA.**

**TOTAL ISIS-LINKED PLOTS BY MONTH
AGAINST THE WEST**



83 TOTAL ISIS-LINKED
ARRESTS IN U.S.
(SINCE 2014)

23 TOTAL ISIS-LINKED
PLOTS TO LAUNCH
ATTACKS IN U.S.
(SINCE 2014)



6,900

Western fighters have traveled to the conflict zone to join ISIS.

1,900

European fighters have traveled to the conflict zone to join ISIS and returned to Europe.

THE WEST

SYRIA/IRAQ

EUROPE

SYRIA/IRAQ

HOMELAND.HOUSE.GOV

KEY POINTS

- **ISIS’s unchecked global expansion has heightened the Islamist terror threat in the West.** ISIS commands a “sophisticated external plotting network” from its sanctuaries and continues to inspire jihadist recruits worldwide. A senior U.K. official recently warned the group has “big ambitions for enormous and spectacular attacks.”
- **The emboldened Iranian regime and its proxies are responding to President Obama’s dangerous nuclear deal with growing aggression.** Iran has been building “complex terror infrastructure” around the globe, conducting illicit ballistic missile launches, and escalating its threats against Israel, our closest ally in the Middle East. Tehran continues to exacerbate the problem of Sunni extremism.
- **Al Qaeda and its affiliates – far from being degraded – are poised to build on recent territorial gains by capitalizing further on instability and inaction.** Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a persistent threat to the Homeland, is “strengthening and expanding its reach” given the lack of a significant counterterrorism effort in Yemen.
- **Islamist terrorists are infiltrating the West by exploiting massive refugee flows.** European security services continue to struggle with the magnitude of a crisis that is “masking the movement” of future terror plotters. Terror suspects have been arrested in refugee and migrant centers in Germany and Italy in recent months. As of earlier this year, over 40 jihadist suspects were detained after attempting to infiltrate Europe posing as Syrian refugees.
- **Terror detainees released from Guantanamo Bay have returned to the battlefield at a rate of more than 30 percent.** A new Director of National Intelligence (DNI) assessment concluded that 19 terrorists freed since 2009 have rejoined the fight or are suspected of doing so. They are among the 204 total former detainees believed to have rejoined the ranks of militant Islamist groups.

HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- Since September 11, 2001, there have been 147 terrorist plots in the U.S. involving homegrown violent jihadists. Around 85 percent of these cases—which include plots to launch attacks and to join foreign terrorist organizations overseas—have occurred or been uncovered after 2009.¹
- Authorities have arrested 83 individuals and charged 3 others in absentia in ISIS-linked cases in the United States. The cases include individuals: plotting attacks; attempting to travel to join ISIS overseas; sending money, equipment, and weapons to terrorists; falsifying statements to federal authorities; and failing to report a felony.² Five ISIS-linked terrorists have been killed as they were carrying out attack plots.

¹ This figure is based on open-source data compiled by the Congressional Research Service and the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

² This figure is based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.



- Nearly 90 percent of the ISIS supporters arrested by authorities are male and almost 40 percent of them are converts to Islam; their average age is 26.³ Around one-third of ISIS-linked suspects arrested by authorities were on their way to an airport with the intent of traveling overseas to join ISIS.

Recent Developments

- February 18: Safya Roe Yassin was arrested after threatening FBI agents over Twitter and posting their personal information. Yassin, a 38-year-old from Buffalo, Missouri, expressed her support for ISIS on social media.
- February 11: Mohamed Barry attacked diners using a machete at a restaurant in Columbus, Ohio. The restaurant's owner is originally from Israel and said Barry had asked his staff about his heritage before the attack. Barry, 30, was reportedly known to authorities for having expressed radical Islamist views.
- February 6: Daniel Seth Franey was arrested for possessing illegal firearms. Franey, a 33-year-old from Montesano, Washington, expressed his support for ISIS and advocated for the killing of U.S. military and law enforcement officials.
- February 6: Khalil Abu-Rayyan was arrested after planning to attack a church in Detroit, Michigan. Abu-Rayyan, a 21-year-old from Dearborn Heights, supported ISIS and had said "If I can't do jihad in the Middle East, I would do my jihad over here."

ISIS TERROR ATTACK PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST

- There have been 79 ISIS-linked plots to attack Western targets, including 23 inside in the United States, since 2014.⁴

Recent Developments

- March 16: French authorities arrested four Islamist terror suspects and indicated they had foiled a potential attack plot. One of the suspects had reportedly been under house arrest for suspected contact with ISIS operatives.
- March 15: At least two terror suspects attacked Belgian and French law enforcement officers in Brussels as the latter were conducting a raid in connection with ISIS's November 2015 attack in Paris. One suspect who was preparing to fire at officers with a Kalashnikov was found with an ISIS flag.

³ These data points are from the George Washington University's Program on Extremism. See:

<https://cchs.gwu.edu/sites/cchs.gwu.edu/files/downloads/ISIS%20in%20America%20-%20February%202016.pdf>.

⁴ These figures are based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.



- March 9: Italian authorities arrested a 22-year-old Somali imam seeking asylum who is suspected of plotting an attack on a train station in Rome. The suspect reportedly expressed support for ISIS and al Qaeda and encouraged other migrants to join the jihadist cause.
 - March 2: The ISIS-linked “Caliphate Cyber Army” posted the personal information of several dozen police officers from New York and New Jersey via the Telegram application and encouraged ISIS’s followers to carry out attacks against them.
 - February 18: Safya Roe Yassin was arrested after threatening FBI agents over Twitter and posting their personal information. Yassin, a 38-year-old from Buffalo, Missouri, expressed her support for ISIS on social media.
 - February 6: Khalil Abu-Rayyan was arrested after planning to attack a church in Detroit, Michigan. Abu-Rayyan, a 21-year-old from Dearborn Heights, supported ISIS and had said “If I can’t do jihad in the Middle East, I would do my jihad over here.”
-

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

- At least 38,200 Sunni fighters from over 120 countries have converged on the battlefields of Syria and Iraq since 2012. This figure is more than seven times larger than the number of Islamist fighters who traveled to Afghanistan during the 1980s to fight the Soviet Union.
 - At least 6,900 Westerners are among the fighters who have traveled to Syria and Iraq. Approximately 250 Americans have traveled – or attempted to travel – to Syria to join the conflict.
 - Almost 2,000 European foreign fighters have reportedly returned to Europe from Syria and Iraq.
 - Up to 20,000 Shi’a militants, including those from Lebanese Hezbollah and Iraqi militias, have also traveled to the conflict zone to fight alongside the Assad regime under Iranian direction.
-

FOREIGN JIHADIST NETWORKS & SAFE HAVENS

ISIS

- At least 34 Islamist extremist groups from around the world have pledged their allegiance to ISIS. ISIS, its affiliates and supporting groups are operating in nearly two dozen countries or territories, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Palestinian territories (Gaza), Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (North Caucasus region), Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.⁵

⁵ Data compiled by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.



- ISIS controls around two dozen cities across Iraq and Syria.⁶ It has maintained its core bases in Mosul, Iraq, and Raqqa, Syria, despite its territorial losses elsewhere. ISIS holds roughly 60 miles of strategic terrain along Syria's border with Turkey.
- In Libya, ISIS controls the coast city of Sirte, which had a pre-war population of 100,000, and more than 150 miles of coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. It also has a presence in other parts of the country, including Tripoli and Benghazi. It has also built terror training camps close to Libya's border with Tunisia, from where it has recruited a significant number of fighters. It has reportedly fielded as many as 6,500 fighters inside Libya.
- In Afghanistan, ISIS is operating in at least four districts in southern Nangarhar province along the Pakistan border and commands 1,000 – 3,000 fighters in eastern Afghanistan.
- In Yemen, ISIS has exploited the ongoing war there to draw recruits and expand its footprint.
- ISIS's affiliate in Egypt, which destroyed a commercial passenger plane in 2015, has maintained its foothold in the Sinai Peninsula amid signs of weak local resistance.

Al Qaeda

- Al Qaeda's affiliates "have proven resilient and are positioned to make gains in 2016."
- Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is "strengthening and expanding its reach in the absence of a significant [counterterrorism] effort" in Yemen.
- Al Qaeda's Syrian affiliate Jabhat al Nusra has established a significant footprint in northern Syria among Syrian Sunni opposition groups. It is poised to expand its reach by exploiting ISIS's territorial losses in Syria.
- Al Qaeda's senior leaders directed a key operational leader in Afghanistan to establish a new sanctuary for al Qaeda last year.

GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEES

- The Office of the Director of National Intelligence's (ODNI) latest assessment of recidivism among former Guantanamo Bay detainees concluded that over 30 percent of detainees released have returned or are suspected of having returned to jihadist activity.
- A Sudanese al Qaeda member released by President Obama in 2012 has joined AQAP and is actively recruiting and releasing propaganda for the group.
- The Obama Administration has released 16 terrorists from Guantanamo Bay thus far in 2016, leaving 91 at the facility.

⁶ These figures are derived from assessments of territorial control conducted by the Institute for the Study of War research organization.

TERRORISTS' EXPLOITATION OF REFUGEE FLOWS

- Massive refugee flows into Europe are “masking the movement” of Islamist extremist fighters into the West, according to Supreme Allied Commander Europe General Philip Breedlove.
- German authorities said on February 5 that an ISIS-linked Algerian couple suspected of plotting a terror attack in Berlin snuck into Germany by posing as Syrian refugees. The two were arrested at a refugee shelter.
- The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has identified “...individuals with ties to terrorist groups in Syria attempting to gain entry to the U.S. through the U.S. refugee program.”
- The Obama administration has proposed resettling at least 10,000 more Syrian refugees in the U.S. this fiscal year, in addition to more than 2,800 already resettled since 2011. Law enforcement and intelligence officials have repeatedly indicated that we lack the on-the-ground intelligence in Syria needed to confidently vet individuals and identify security risks in the process of screening Syrian refugees for resettlement.

THE IRANIAN TERROR THREAT

- Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said on February 24 that the Iranian regime and its Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) are “building a complex terror infrastructure including [sleeper] cells that are stockpiling arms, intelligence and operatives and are ready to act on order including in Europe and America.”
- Iran tested several ballistic missiles on March 8-9 in violation of a United Nations Security Council Resolution. A senior IRGC general issued a direct threat to Israel: “The reason we designed our missiles with a range of 2,000 km is to be able to hit our enemy the Zionist regime from a safe distance.”
- Iran’s longstanding relationship with and enabling of al Qaeda was underscored in a newly released letter from Osama bin Laden released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Bin Laden wrote to a subordinate: “...Iran is our main artery for funds, personnel and communication.”