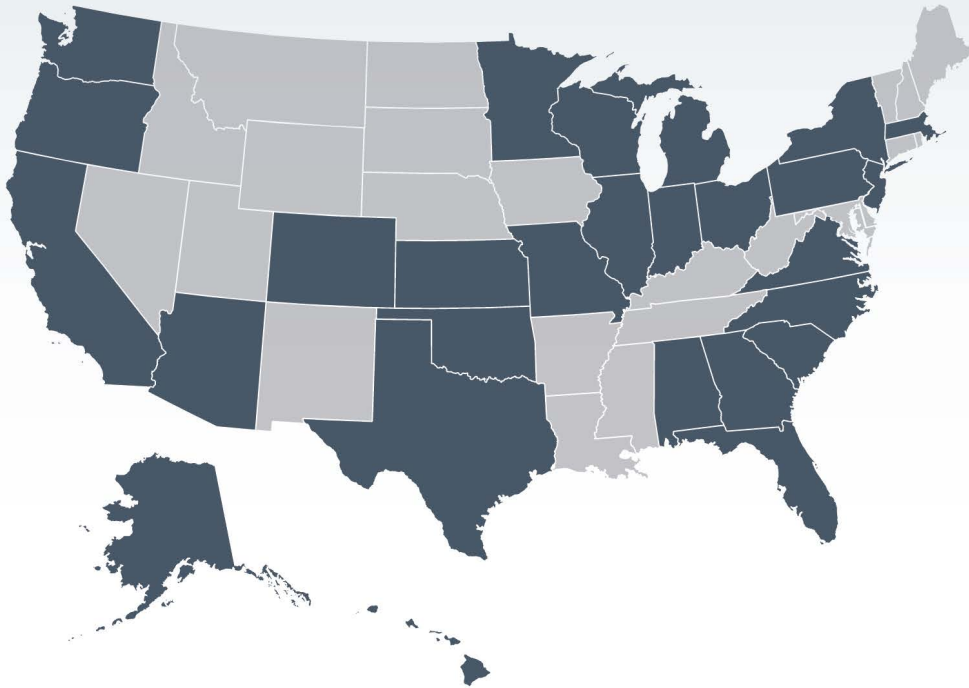


# TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

MARCH 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

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

## TOP 5 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH FOREIGN FIGHTER RETURNEES

United Kingdom  425

Germany  300

France  271

Kosovo  117

Sweden  108

## ISIS-LINKED PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST



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



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



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

\*Number of foreign fighter returnees based off a report from the Soufan Center titled: *Beyond The Caliphate: Foreign Fighters and the Threat of Returnees*

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>

- ◆ The U.S. Department of State designated seven ISIS-affiliated groups as [Foreign Terrorist Organizations \(FTO\)](#) and two ISIS-affiliated individuals as [Specially Designated Global Terrorists \(SDGT\)](#). The groups are ISIS-West Africa, ISIS-Philippines, ISIS-Bangladesh, ISIS-Somalia, ISIS-Egypt, Jund al-Khilafah-Tunisia, and the Maute Group. The individuals are Mahad Moalim and Abu Musab al-Barnawi. The designation as a SDGT and FTO prohibits U.S. persons from engaging in transactions with them, and their assets subject to U.S. jurisdiction were blocked and seized. Assisting them with any material support is now criminal as well.
- ◆ In a continuing effort to cut off terrorist financing opportunities, the U.S. Department of the Treasury [imposed sanctions](#) on six people and seven entities responsible for funding Hezbollah. Most of them are tied to Adham Tabaj, one of the terrorist group's top financiers, and his company Al-Inmaa Engineering and Contracting. The firms are located in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Lebanon, and Ghana.
- ◆ As ISIS loses its geographic presence, fighters continue to return to their home countries. Russia had the highest number of fighters go to Syria and Iraq with an estimated 3,417, and 400 have returned. Saudi Arabia was next with roughly 3,244, of which 760 have returned. Jordan was third with approximately 3,000, of which 250 have returned. Tunisia followed with 2,926, of which 800 have returned. France was fifth with 1,910, of which 271 have returned, according to a report from [The Soufan Center](#).
- ◆ Alexandra Kotey and El Shafee Elsheikh, the last two of the notorious ISIS group referred to as "The Beatles" [were captured by Syrian Kurd forces in eastern Syria](#). The group was responsible for several high-profile executions, including Alan Henning, James Foley, Steven Sotloff. Mohammed Emwazi, aka Jihadi John, was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Raqqa. The fourth member, Aine Lesley Davis, was arrested in Turkey, and is currently imprisoned.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, incidents included in this report span February 1 through February 28. All figures are based on open-source and government data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

## HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 150 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ [February 2, 2018](#): Munther Omar Saleh, 22, of New York, New York, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for providing material support to ISIS and assaulting a law enforcement officer. In 2015 Saleh helped Nader Saadeh, of New Jersey, who intended to join ISIS, travel to Jordan where he was detained.
- ◆ [February 6, 2018](#): Naif Abdulaziz M. Alfallaj, 34, a Saudi citizen living in Weatherford, Oklahoma, was arrested and charged with committing visa fraud and making false statements to the FBI. Alfallaj attended an Al Qaeda training camp in 2000, and deliberately hid this from ICE and the FBI.
- ◆ [February 6, 2018](#): Sean Andrew Duncan, 21, of Sterling, Virginia, was indicted for obstructing a terrorism investigation. During an FBI raid on his home, Duncan attempted to escape with a thumb drive and memory chip. He faces up to 20 years in prison.
- ◆ [February 7, 2018](#): Tnuza Jamal Hassan, 19, of Minnesota, was charged with attempting to provide material support to a terrorist organization. Hassan expressed support for Al Qaeda, and set multiple fires at St. Catherine University, where she was a student. Although details have still not been released, Hassan claimed that she would have built and detonated a bomb, if she had known how.
- ◆ [February 8, 2018](#): Gregory Hubbard, 54, of Palm Beach County, Florida, pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS and attempting to travel to join the terrorist group. Hubbard, a former Marine, had shared ISIS propaganda online, and saved money to take with him to Syria. In 2016, he was arrested at Miami International Airport attempting to travel to Germany and from there to Syria.

- ◆ [February 8, 2018](#): Shivam Patel, 28, of Williamsburg, Virginia, pleaded guilty to attempting to join “a Muslim army” and wage jihad against the United States. Patel faces up to 15 years in prison, and will be sentenced on June 4, 2018.
- ◆ [February 13, 2018](#): Ahmad Khan Rahimi, 30, an Afghan-born US citizen, was sentenced to life in prison for launching attacks on behalf of Al Qaeda in 2016. Also known as “The Chelsea Bomber,” Rahimi planted an improvised pressure cooker bomb along a Marines Corps charity race route in New Jersey, and another in Chelsea wounding a total of 35.
- ◆ [February 16, 2018](#): Mohamed Rafik Naji, 38, of Brooklyn, New York, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to a terrorist group. Naji repeatedly attempted to travel to ISIS-controlled regions of Yemen to join the terrorist group. Following his return to the United States, he disseminated ISIS propaganda and discussed planning an attack.
- ◆ [February 16, 2018](#): Said Azzam Mohamad Rahim, 41, of Richardson, Texas, was indicted charged with attempting to provide material support to ISIS and making false statements to law enforcement regarding his support for the terrorist group.
- ◆ [February 16, 2018](#): Usama Darwich Hamade, 53, Samir Ahmed Berro, 64, and Issam Darwich Hamade, 55, have all been charged with illegally exporting goods and technology from the United States to Hezbollah. Usama Hamade and Issam Hamade have been taken into custody in South Africa, while Berro remains at large.
- ◆ [February 21, 2018](#): Sajmir Alimehmeti, 24, of the Bronx, New York, was convicted of providing material support to ISIS and committing passport fraud in order to facilitate an act of international terrorism. Alimehmeti attempted to travel to the U.K. twice after authorities found ISIS propaganda on his phone. He returned to the U.S. and began disseminating ISIS propaganda, and stockpiling knives and weapons. Alimehmeti then applied for a passport claiming his last one had been lost, which was false. He intended to use the new passport to travel to join, and fight for, ISIS.
- ◆ [February 23, 2018](#): Nicholas Young, 38, of Fairfax, Virginia, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for providing material support to ISIS. Young, who previously worked as a police officer for the Metro Transit Police Department in Washington, D.C. attempted to

purchase and send gift card codes to ISIS members to enable them to communicate securely.

## ISIS IN THE WEST

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ [February 13, 2018](#): Rakhmat Akilov, 39, the Uzbek national who stole a truck and ran down pedestrians on behalf of ISIS in Stockholm in April 2017, pleaded guilty to terrorism and attempted terrorism, but pleaded not guilty to all of the attempted murder charges. The trial started February 13, and is expected to continue through June.
- ◆ [February 20, 2018](#): Aweys Shikhey, 38, of London was found guilty of attempting to travel to Syria to fight for ISIS. Shikhey was arrested at the Stansted airport with a large amount of cash.
- ◆ [February 22, 2018](#): Linda Wenzel, 17, of Dresden, Germany, has been sentenced to six years in prison by an Iraqi court for joining ISIS. Wenzel was arrested in July 2017 by Iraqi forces. She is believed to have radicalized online before running away from home to join ISIS.
- ◆ [February 26, 2018](#): Mohammed Kamal Hussain, 28, of London has been sentenced to seven years in prison for terrorism offenses. Hussain sent Facebook messages to people encouraging them to join ISIS, and posted pro-ISIS statements. The investigation was the result of a tip from an anonymous man, who alerted authorities when he received a message from Hussain.
- ◆ [February 27, 2018](#): Abderrahman Bouanane, 22, a Moroccan man who killed two and wounded nine in a knife attack in Finland in August 2017 has stated that he carried out the attack on behalf of ISIS. Bouanne arrived in Finland seeking asylum, but was denied. He has been in custody since his attack, and his trial is expected to begin in March.
- ◆ [February 27, 2018](#): Gary Staples, 50, of London, was sentenced to three years in prison for encouraging terrorism and disseminating terrorist propaganda. Staples posted and shared

a large amount of extremist content, specifically from ISIS, and was encouraging others to carry out acts of terror on the group's behalf.

- ◆ [February 28, 2018](#): Munir Hassan Mohammed, 37, of Derby, U.K., and Rowaida El Hassan, 33, of London, U.K., were sentenced for plotting a terrorist attack. The pair frequently shared extremist propaganda, and were researching TATP, an explosive compound frequently used in terrorist attacks. Mohammed was sentenced to life in prison, and Hassan was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

### ISIS

#### OPERATIONS AGAINST ISIS

- ◆ [February 19, 2018](#): Fehmi Lassoued, who was born in the UAE, but lived in Syria for many years, was arrested by Filipino authorities for attempting to recruit fighters for ISIS. Security services found weapons, bomb-making materials, and ISIS propaganda in Lassoued's possession. He arrived in Manila in 2016, and had traveled frequently to Malaysia and Turkey using a fake Tunisian passport.
- ◆ [February 22, 2018](#): Malaysian security services arrested 11 individuals for being members of ISIS, and arranging travel for militants to reach the region.

#### RECENT NON-WESTERN ISIS PLOTS/ATTACKS

- ◆ [February 2, 2018](#): An ISIS stronghold with suicide vests and explosives was found inside a home in a Kabul neighborhood by Afghan security services. The location of the safe house demonstrates the ongoing security challenge in the country.
- ◆ [February 18, 2018](#): Khalil Khalilov, 22, of Dagestan, Russia, attacked a crowd leaving a church in Kizlyar, Russia. Khalilov shot into the group of people killing five and injuring five, including a policeman and national guardsman. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack.

- ◆ [February 19, 2018](#): ISIS militants launched a series of coordinated attacks on Popular Mobilization Units military checkpoints near Hawija, Iraq, west of Kirkuk. PMU, a Shiite militia group of around 110,000, took control of Hawija in October 2017. The attack left at least 27 militia members dead.
- ◆ [February 24, 2018](#): Militants attacked a military camp in Aden, Yemen, killing six and wounding 43. Two car bombers detonated their vehicles before gunmen began firing. The facility is an anti-terrorism center, and is where the former governor resides.

## BOKO HARAM

### RECENT BOKO HARAM ATTACKS

- ◆ [February 17, 2018](#): Three suicide bombers attacked a fish market in Konduga, Nigeria killing at least 18 and wounding 50. Konduga is 18 miles south of Maiduguri, in Borno state, which Boko Haram has claimed as the group's capital.
- ◆ [February 19, 2018](#): Militants kidnapped more than 100 girls from a boarding school in Dapchi, Nigeria, northwest of Maiduguri. The incident has been plagued by conflicting reports, with the government initially claiming that no girls had been kidnapped. The government announced on February 26<sup>th</sup> that 110 girls had been kidnapped, and that a large-scale search would be launched to find them.

## TALIBAN

### OPERATIONS AGAINST THE TALIBAN

- ◆ [February 6, 2018](#): The U.S. military launched a series of airstrikes targeting bomb-making and training facilities in Afghanistan. The airstrikes consisted of 24 precision bombs, and targets included an attack-rehearsal camp in eastern Afghanistan and stolen Afghan National Army vehicles, which could have been converted into IEDs.
- ◆ [February 13, 2018](#): Khan Sayed, the number two commander in the Pakistani Taliban was killed in a drone strike in the tribal region of Waziristan near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

## RECENT TALIBAN ATTACKS

- ◆ [February 11, 2018](#): An insider attack left 16 Afghan intelligence operatives dead in Helmand province. The attackers shot all of the other men at a security facility before seizing weapons and equipment and fleeing.
- ◆ [February 22, 2018](#): Militants attacked a police outpost in Ghazni province, killing eight and wounding one. Fighters surrounded the outpost and used heavy weapons and artillery.
- ◆ [February 24, 2018](#): Insurgents launched a nighttime attack on an Afghan military base in Farah province, which borders Iran, killing more than 20 soldiers and wounding several. The attackers seized multiple vehicles, weapons, and ammunition.

## AL QAEDA

### OPERATIONS AGAINST AL QAEDA

- ◆ [February 16, 2018](#): Ibrahim Suleiman Adnan Adam Harun, of Nigeria, was sentenced to life in prison for participating in an attack on American soldiers in Afghanistan in 2003 that killed two U.S. servicemen, and plotting to bomb a U.S. embassy in Nigeria. Harun was captured in Libya in 2005, and released onto a refugee ship in 2011 before being taken into custody by Italian authorities.

## AL-SHABAAB

### OPERATIONS AGAINST AL-SHABAAB

- ◆ [February 6, 2018](#): Hasan Aden Isak, the driver of the second truck in the October 2017 suicide attack that killed more than 500 in Mogadishu was sentenced to death. Isak detonated his explosive after he complied with soldiers' orders to exit the vehicle. His attack killed two. Abdullahi Hassan Absuge, who was tried in absentia and whose role in the attack was not specified, was sentenced to life in prison.
- ◆ [February 21, 2018](#): A U.S.-led airstrike killed three militants in the Jilib, Somalia.



## RECENT AL SHABAAB ATTACKS

- ◆ [February 23, 2018](#): A coordinated attack near the Somali president's palace left 45 dead and 36 wounded. Two car bombers and gunmen attacked the presidential palace compound, which also houses a hotel, before being killed by security services.