



## KEY POINTS

- ◆ ISIS' campaign to encourage and guide terrorist attacks in the West continues. So far in 2017, there have been 14 homegrown jihadi cases in America and the FBI continues to investigate cases in all 50 states.
- ◆ "They [ISIS] are dangerous. I prefer them not having the caliphate, to the extent that there isn't pressure on terrorists, to the extent they have the capacity to operate and communicate and build up their network. They present more risk to our homeland. I think we're infinitely better off with them not having the real estate." - CIA Director Mike Pompeo on [whether ISIS is as dangerous without the territorial caliphate](#) (July 20, 2017).
- ◆ [Mosul has been reclaimed from ISIS by U.S.-backed coalition forces](#). This deals a major blow to ISIS operations in the region, as the city was one of their largest strongholds. Global threat levels remain high, however, as the group continues to encourage attacks abroad.
- ◆ ISIS' branch in Afghanistan, ISIS Khorasan, was dealt a major blow when the group's leader [Abu Sayed was killed in a U.S. airstrike](#) on the organization's headquarters in Kunar province on July 14.
- ◆ In July [Australia created a new ministry dedicated to coordinating anti-terror efforts between existing agencies](#). The Ministry of Home Affairs will have oversight of the Australian Federal Police, Australian Security Intelligence Organization, and the Australian Border Force. The ministry will also have an intelligence coordinating body, as well as an around-the-clock cyber security department.

## HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue rise as U.S. Persons radicalize. Since the September 11 attacks, there have been 214 homegrown jihadist arrests in the United States, of which 136 were ISIS-related.<sup>1</sup>

## Recent Developments

- ◆ [June 1, 2017](#): Ali Kourani, 32, of Bronx, NY, and Samer el Debek, 37, of Dearborn, MI, were arrested for terror-related charges involving Hizballah's Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO). Kourani attended a weapons training program sponsored by the terrorist organization in 2000, and was recruited by IJO in 2008. El Debek is a naturalized U.S. citizen, and was recruited in 2007 or 2008. He received training from the terrorist group periodically through 2014, and was sent on missions to support Hizballah operations around the world. Both men have been charged with providing and attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, and could face up to 20 years in prison.
- ◆ [June 15, 2017](#): Aziz Sayyed, 22, was arrested for "soliciting or providing support for an act of terrorism." Born in North Carolina, Sayyed was arrested near the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The arrest began as a tip to police, which led to a joint operation by local and federal law enforcement bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> These figures are based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

- ◆ [June 21, 2017](#): Alexander Samuel Smith, 29, was arrested in North Carolina for lying to the FBI about planning to fly to Syria to join ISIS. Smith intended to assist others in reaching Syria through “buddy passes,” discounted tickets he would be able to obtain through his girlfriend, who worked at an airline.
- ◆ [June 22, 2017](#): Saddam Mohamed Raishani, 30, was arrested at John F. Kennedy International Airport for attempting to travel overseas to join ISIS, and for providing material support to the organization. Raishani discussed his desire to assist ISIS, as well as his support for the organization, with an undercover law enforcement officer. Raishani had already helped another man prepare and travel to join ISIS. Raishani could face up to 20 years in prison.
- ◆ [July 11, 2017](#): Ikaika Kang, 34, an active duty U.S Army sergeant, was arrested by the FBI after a yearlong investigation. Kang, who has been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, attempted to provide material support and operational expertise as an air traffic controller to ISIS. Reported to the FBI by the Army, Kang allegedly made pro-ISIS comments to multiple coworkers. Kang also pledged allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He was in possession of multiple firearms, and planned to, “kill a bunch of people.”

## ISIS TERROR PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST

- ◆ Since the group’s inception in 2013, there have been at least 209 ISIS-linked plots or attacks against Western targets, with 31 since January of this year.<sup>2</sup>

## Recent Developments

- ◆ “There are ISIS branches in a dozen places today. So it is not just the strongholds that are very much in the news in Syria and in Iraq. We’re going to have to work to pressure them, to provide CT pressure in a way that CIA and DOD know how to do...The places they can get to Europe present the most discrete threat. That is, places like ISIS in Libya, ISIS in Sinai, and certainly there are remnants of ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Places they can get through Turkey and into Europe, and then ultimately make their way relatively easily into the United States.” – CIA Director Mike Pompeo [on ISIS members making their way to the U.S.](#) (July 20, 2017)
- ◆ [June 1, 2017](#): An unnamed 17 year-old asylum seeker outside Berlin was held by police for planning a suicide attack. The teenager sent a foreboding farewell message to family members stating that he had “joined the jihad.” He came to Germany in 2015 as an unaccompanied minor and registered as an asylum-seeker. No weapons or extremist paraphernalia were found in a police search of his residence.
- ◆ [June 3, 2017](#): Rehab Dughmush, 32, a Canadian citizen, was arrested for assaulting and threatening patrons in a store in Toronto, Canada . Dughmush entered the store and began swinging a golf club, before pulling out a knife. Customers were able to defuse the situation before anyone was seriously injured. Dughmush is described as vowing to kill “white people,” and that she was “from ISIS.” In her hearing, she pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS.

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- ◆ [June 4, 2017](#): Khuram Shazad Butt, 27, Rachid Redouane, 30, and Youssef Zaghba, 22, used a van to run down pedestrians on London Bridge before exiting the vehicle and stabbing people in their immediate vicinity. The driver stopped the van after crossing the bridge, and the three men ran down the street to Borough Market, a crowded shopping and dining area. Police shot and killed all three men, who were all wearing mock suicide vests. Molotov cocktails were found in the van. Seven people died in the attack, and 48 were injured, 18 critically.
- ◆ [June 5, 2017](#): Yacqub Khayre, 29, killed an apartment employee and took a woman hostage in Melbourne, Australia. Khayre was armed with a sawn-off shotgun, and fired at police after they arrived at the scene. The woman was unharmed. Khayre was known to Australian security services, and had been acquitted of a plot to attack army barracks in Sydney. He had an extensive criminal history, and was on parole at the time of his attack. During the attack, Khayre contacted a news station and said, “This is for IS, this is for al-Qaeda.”
- ◆ [June 6, 2017](#): Farid Ikke, 40, attacked a police officer outside of Notre Dame in Paris, France, with a hammer, while yelling “This is for Syria.” The Algerian man was also armed with large kitchen knives, and charged another officer after striking the first in the head. The officer wounded Ikke, and both men were hospitalized. A video of Ikke pledging allegiance to ISIS was found in his apartment following the attack.
- ◆ [June 15, 2017](#): Moudasser Taleb, 22, has been arrested and charged for attempting to fly to Syria and fight for ISIS. Taleb was known to Australian security services, and had been monitored as he’d self-radicalized. Police claim that Taleb swore a pledge of allegiance to ISIS.
- ◆ [June 16, 2017](#): Adel Ankoush, 18, Osama Atta, 19, and Baraa Saleh, 19, attacked people near Jerusalem’s Old City, killing a policewoman and wounding three others. Armed with a gun and knives, the group launched two simultaneous attacks. All three were killed during the attack. Both Hamas and ISIS have claimed responsibility for the attack.
- ◆ [June 19, 2017](#): An unidentified 31 year-old man drove a car filled with explosives into a police vehicle in the Champs-Élysées in Paris. The explosives detonated, killing the man, and no police or civilians were injured. Police also found a handgun in the vehicle. The man is said to have been on the French security services’ watch list for extremism.
- ◆ [June 20, 2017](#): Three unnamed Moroccan men, aged 32, 38, and 33 were arrested in Madrid, Spain on terror-related charges. The 32 year-old was said to be “highly radicalized” and in possession of a sizable collection of Islamic extremist materials, including suicide bomber manuals. He also attempted to recruit people to carry out attacks in Spain.
- ◆ [June 20, 2017](#): Oussama Zariouh, 36, was killed attempting to carry out a bombing in Brussels Central Station. No one was killed or injured, as the homemade bomb only partially detonated. Zariouh charged a military police officer shouting “Allahu akbar” before being shot several times. Zariouh was unknown to security services, and apparently acted alone.

- ◆ [June 21, 2017](#): Amor M. Ftouhi, 50, of Montreal, Canada, was arrested for stabbing a police officer at an airport in Flint, Michigan. Ftouhi entered the country by car the week before, and made his way from New York to Michigan. When Ftouhi arrived in Michigan, he attempted to buy a firearm, but was turned away. Ftouhi shouted “Allahu akbar” before striking the officer in the neck.
- ◆ [June 22, 2017](#): A stun grenade was detonated against the wall of a NATO military facility in Izmir, Turkey. The blast damaged the wall, and shattered windows in buildings nearby. No one was injured in the attack.
- ◆ [June 28, 2017](#): Four unidentified men in Switzerland were arrested for having suspected links to jihadist organizations. Swiss authorities have released little information about the individuals, but have stated that they “might pose an immediate threat.”
- ◆ [June 30, 2017](#): Four men were arrested by Spanish authorities in Mallorca, along with one in Dortmund, Germany, on suspicion of being an ISIS cell. Tarik Chadlioui, 43, a well-known Moroccan-born radical cleric living in Birmingham, England, who acted as the “spiritual leader” of the group was also arrested. The cell, including Chadlioui, provided support to ISIS as propagandists and recruiters.
- ◆ [July 1, 2017](#): Two unnamed 21 year old men were arrested at Heathrow Airport in London, England on suspicion of terrorism-related offences. Both men were returning from Turkey, and security services have stated that there is no immediate threat to the public.
- ◆ [July 6, 2017](#): Belgian brothers Akim Saouti, 40, and Khalid Saouti, 37, were arrested in Brussels for terror-related offenses, and have been charged with belonging to a terrorist group. The brothers appear to have been planning an attack, as they were found in possession of several Kalashnikov rifles, ammunition, detonators, and police uniforms. The two are brothers of convicted terrorist Said Souti, who was jailed in 2016. Akim and Said are believed to have been planning an attack, as police found multiple Kalashnikov rifles, ammunition, detonators, and police uniforms at the brothers’ home.
- ◆ [July 13, 2017](#): Mohammed Kamal Hussain, 28, and Mohammad Ashfaqur Hemel, 31, of London, England were charged with terror-related offences. Hussain has been charged with encouragement of terrorism and acts in preparation of terrorism. Hemel has been charged with encouragement of terrorism.
- ◆ [July 14, 2017](#): Abdel-Rahman Shaaban, 29, was arrested after attacking tourists with a knife, killing two women, and wounding four in the popular vacation town of Hurghada, Egypt. Shaaban specifically targeted foreign tourists, shouting “Stay back, I am not after Egyptians” during the attack. Shaaban appears to have acted alone in the attack.
- ◆ [July 17, 2017](#): Linda Wenzel, 16, of Germany was arrested by Iraqi security services after they secured the city of Mosul. Wenzel rapidly radicalized in 2016, and left her family’s home near Dresden to join ISIS. She travelled to Turkey first, then crossed over to Syria, before being smuggled into Mosul. Wenzel was found with a group of approximately 20 female foreign fighters.
- ◆ [July 18, 2017](#): Hassan Bal, 25, was arrested by authorities for three terrorism-related charges: providing funds for an international terrorist group, attempting to collect

funds for an international terrorist group, and encouraging another person to provide funds for an international terrorist group.

- ◆ [July 30, 2017](#): Four individuals were arrested on suspicion of planning to use an unspecified improvised device to bring down a plane in Sydney, Australia. Two Lebanese-Australian men and their sons were allegedly in contact with ISIS members, and are reported to have been “fairly well along” in planning the attack.

## **THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR**

### **ISIS**

#### **Operations Against ISIS**

- ◆ [July 10, 2017](#): Mosul, a key city in ISIS dominated territory, was retaken by U.S.-backed coalition forces. The city is where Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the caliphate, and himself as its leader. The operation to retake Mosul was launched in October 2016, and has been a grueling campaign for the coalition forces in the region. Losing Mosul is a major blow to ISIS, whose fighters have fled the city and are resorting to guerilla warfare tactics.
- ◆ [July 20, 2017](#): The U.N. Security Council unanimously voted to sanction eight individuals and business they have determined are linked to ISIS and al Qaeda. The group includes known ISIS leaders, groups, and illicit financial exchanges. U.S. Deputy Ambassador to the U.N. Michele Sison has stated that there will be more additions to the sanctions blacklist.
- ◆ [July 31, 2017](#): The British government stripped over 150 suspected jihadists and criminals of their citizenship, and have banned them from returning to the UK. The individuals all hold dual citizenship status, to prevent leaving them stateless. The action is to prevent an influx of militants returning from Syria and Iraq, as ISIS loses territory.

#### **Notable ISIS Members Targeted**

- ◆ [July 11, 2017](#): Abu Sayed, head of the Islamic State in Afghanistan, or ISIS-Khorasan, was killed in an airstrike on the organization’s headquarters. This marks the third ISIS leader in Afghanistan to be killed since 2016. Dana White, Pentagon spokeswoman, stated that the death, “will significantly disrupt the terror group’s plans to expand its presence in Afghanistan.”

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

- ◆ [June 7, 2017](#): Five armed members of ISIS launched a two pronged attack on Iran’s parliament and Ayatollah Khomeini’s tomb in Tehran. The men killed 17 and injured 45 with suicide bombings and firearms. The men were heard shouting ISIS-affiliated phrases in Arabic during the attacks, and were featured on an ISIS news network. All of the attackers had travelled to ISIS held territory and then to Iran without alerting Iran’s security services. All five men were killed during the attack.

- ◆ [June 12, 2017](#): Syaikhah Izzah Zahrah Al Ansari, 22, was arrested for radicalism in Singapore. Zahrah is the first woman to be arrested under the country's new Internal Security Act. An active participant in pro-ISIS online communities, Zahrah began radicalizing in 2014. She sought to marry an ISIS militant, and wanted to go through training to engage in armed combat.
- ◆ [July 7, 2017](#): An Egyptian army outpost in the Sinai Peninsula was attacked by ISIS militants. The militants detonated a suicide car bomber, before a convoy of 24 SUVs swarmed the compound. ISIS fighters opened fire on the soldiers, killing 23 of them, before looting the outpost and departing.
- ◆ [July 17, 2017](#): Four unnamed Boko Haram suicide bombers struck multiple targets in Maiduguri, Nigeria, where the terrorist group was founded. The attack targeted civilian self-defense forces, killing 19 and wounding 23. This was the deadliest attack in months.
- ◆ [July 23, 2017](#): President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines extended martial law through the end of the year on the island of Mindanao, where the government has been fighting ISIS affiliated forces since May. Marawi City has been the focal point of the conflict, where air and artillery strikes have been deployed along with hundreds of ground forces. Casualties have topped 500, with 45 civilians being killed. President Duterte has stated that preventing more civilian casualties remains the highest priority, and is prepared to wait a year for the situation to end.
- ◆ [July 29, 2017](#): A Boko Haram suicide bomber killed 14 people and wounded at least 24 in Dikwa, Nigeria, near Maiduguri. A female militant snuck into a building late Friday night before detonating her explosives.
- ◆ [July 31, 2017](#): ISIS militants launched an attack on the Iraqi Embassy in Kabul, before being killed by security services. A suicide bomber detonated his explosive outside the gate to the embassy, before three gunmen stormed the building. A four-hour gunfight ensued, which ended with all three militants being killed. One policeman is reported as being killed.

## **AL QAEDA**

### **Notable Al Qaeda Members Targeted**

- ◆ [June 16, 2017](#): Abu Khattab al Awlaqi, senior leader in AQAP, was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Yemen. Al Awlaqi was an influential figure in the Arabian Peninsula, and al Qaeda at large. His death removes one of the key figures in the terrorist group's leadership, and will weaken their efforts to spread terror through Yemen and beyond. The operation to remove al Awlaqi was conducted with the support of the Yemeni government.

### **Recent Al Qaeda Plots/Attacks**

- ◆ [July 16, 2017](#): AQAP militants attacked Yemeni soldiers stationed at an army outpost near a gas pipeline in eastern Yemen. Five were killed and four were wounded. These outposts are frequent targets for AQAP militants. The gunmen escaped following the attack.

- ◆ [July 17, 2017](#): An AQAP suicide car bomber wounded five Yemeni soldiers at an army compound in eastern Yemen. The attack was the second from AQAP in two days, and is the latest in a series of attacks on Yemeni government targets.

### **Al Shabaab**

- ◆ [July 7, 2017](#): Al Shabaab militants beheaded nine men in Kenya's coastal city of Lamu. An armed militia attacked two villages, specifically targeting men, and dragged them out of their homes. Ten in total were taken, but one managed to escape unharmed.
- ◆ [July 13, 2017](#): Al Shabaab militants took a high profile Kenyan government official hostage, after attacking her convoy and killing three people. Maryam Elmaawy was travelling to visit families who had fled al Shabaab attacks when her convoy was ambushed by militants. Two police officers and a civilian were killed. Elmaawy was rescued by Kenyan military forces.

### **SELECT ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST TERROR GROUPS**

- ◆ [June 8, 2017](#): Three unnamed men, aged 34, 37, and 33, were arrested in London on suspicion on terror-related offences under the Terrorism Act.
- ◆ [July 8, 2017](#): Two members of the Muslim Brotherhood-linked terrorist group Hasm were killed by police in Giza, Egypt. Security forces were dispatched to arrest the two men, when they were fired upon. The policemen returned fire, killing the two militants.
- ◆ [July 14, 2017](#): Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Jabarin, 29, Mohamed Hamad Abdel Atif Jabarin, 19, and Mohammed Ahmed Mufdal Jabarin, 19, opened fire on Israelis at a holy site significant in both Judaism and Islam. The site, known as the Temple Mount in Judaism and the Noble Sanctuary in Islam, has been a place of conflict in the past. Two Israeli police officers were killed in the attack. The gunmen were killed by Israeli security services. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.
- ◆ [July 24, 2017](#): A Taliban car bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan killed 29 people and wounded 40. The target appears to have been a bus carrying Afghan intelligence staff, however all of the victims have been identified as civilians.
- ◆ [July 28, 2017](#): Ahmad A, 26, killed one and wounded six in a knife attack at a supermarket in Hamburg, Germany, before being subdued by civilians and police. He entered the grocery store, removed a knife from the shelf, and removed the packaging before shouting "Allahu akbar" and attacking individuals near him. Ahmad was known to German security services as being Islamist, but hadn't been considered a Jihadist.