

US NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

COUNTERTERRORISM

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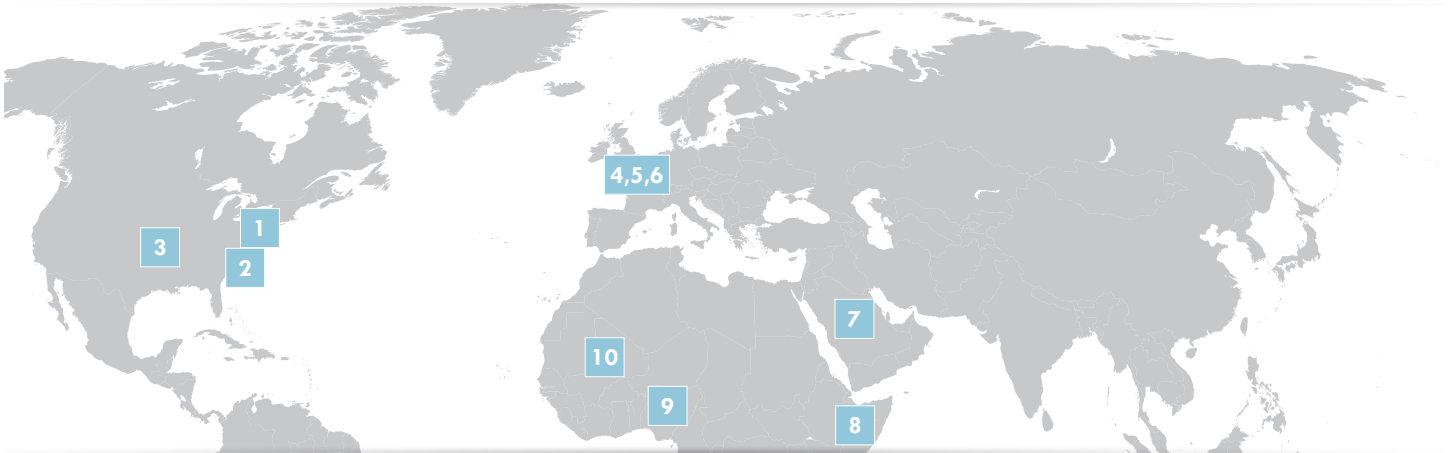
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COUNTERTERRORISM DIGEST

26 JANUARY-02 FEBRUARY 2016

HIGHLIGHTS



- 1 VIRGINIA:** On 27 January, an ISIL hacker was charged with providing material support to ISIL, to include stealing personally identifiable information of 1,000 US service members and federal employees. [\[pg. 7\]](#)
- 2 HOMELAND:** In late January, the Department of Treasury sanctioned Hizballah-affiliated money launderer Mohamad Noureddine, who was recently detained in France based on a US warrant. [\[pg. 6\]](#)
- 3 NORTH CAROLINA:** A man, 19, was indicted on seven-counts, to include attempting to provide material support to ISIL. [\[pg. 5\]](#)
- 4 UNITED KINGDOM:** A British national woman was sentenced to six years in prison for joining ISIL and encouraging terrorism on social media. [\[pg. 7\]](#)
- 5 FRANCE:** French military intelligence listed seven landmarks which could be targeted in a “coordinated” terror attack, based on social media research. [\[pg. 5\]](#)
- 6 FRANCE:** France and Belgium vowed to tighten their security cooperation and increase information sharing on potential terrorists, along with efforts to prevent the forgery of documents. [\[pg. 7\]](#)
- 7 SAUDI ARABIA:** Two suicide bombers were prevented from entering the Shia Imam al-Rida mosque; however, the bombers managed to kill four people and wound 36 others. [\[pg. 13\]](#)
- 8 SOMALIA:** Daallo Flight D3159 made an emergency landing in Mogadishu, after an explosion occurred shortly after take-off. The flight originated in Saudi Arabia and was bound for Djibouti. There has been no claim of responsibility at this time. [\[pg. 14\]](#)
- 9 NIGERIA:** Boko Haram conducted attacks in Dalori, killing 65. In Chibok, they were also suspected of using male suicide bombers, dressed as women with bombs to look like babies, to attack a market. [\[pg. 9\]](#)
- 10 MALI:** AQIM claimed responsibility for the abduction of Swiss missionary hostage Beatrice Stockly, who was previously kidnapped by AQIM in 2012. [\[pg. 9\]](#)

SPOTLIGHT SUMMARY

FRENCH TERRORIST DJAMEDL BEGHAL: French-Algerian terrorist Djamedl Beghal radicalized and inspired Chérif Kouachi and Amedy Coulibaly—two individuals involved in the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks in Paris, France. He has been detained in at least ten prisons since 2001, with his latest 12-year sentence beginning in May 2010, for plotting a prison-break. Beghal also claimed to meet al-Qa’ida leader al-Zawahiri and ISIL leader al-Zarqawi. **(HARPERS)**

ISIL RECRUITS IN THE US LEGAL SYSTEM: George Washington University’s Program on Extremism conducted research and analysis on ISIL recruits within the US legal system. As of late January, 80 Americans have been charged with activities related to ISIL, with active investigations in all 50 states. **(GWU)**

SPOTLIGHT

This section provides a comprehensive look at a terrorist group(s) or leader(s), and/or CT tools and literature.

French Terrorist Djamedl Beghal

In 2000, French-Algerian Djamedl Beghal—who at the time was a student of London-based violent extremist cleric Abu Qatada al-Filistini—left France to travel to Afghanistan where he led a small but influential Islamist faction which maintained friendly relations with al-Qa’ida. The group operated a paramilitary camp where members learned to handle assault rifles and handguns. While in Afghanistan, Beghal claimed to have met al-Qa’ida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi—who would go on to form the group now known as ISIL—and Abu Iyadh, an influential violent extremist leader recently killed in Tunisia.



Djamedl Beghal (TWITTER)

Upon returning to France in July 2001, Beghal was arrested and accused of leading an al-Qa’ida plot to bomb the US Embassy in Paris. Beghal was convicted under an antiterrorism statute known as “association de malfaiteurs terroriste,” loosely translated as “terrorist criminal association.” In 2009, Beghal was released from prison and began to interact with several radicalized individuals including Chèrif Kouachi and Amedy Coulibaly—two of the individuals involved in the January 2015 *Charlie Hebdo* attacks in Paris.

Beghal has been held in at least ten prisons since his arrest in 2001. Coulibaly, who at 23 had been in and out of prison three times, was assigned to a cell directly beneath Beghal. Despite being in isolation, the two men spoke, presumably through the exterior windows of their cells. Chèrif Kouachi arrived at the prison around the same time.

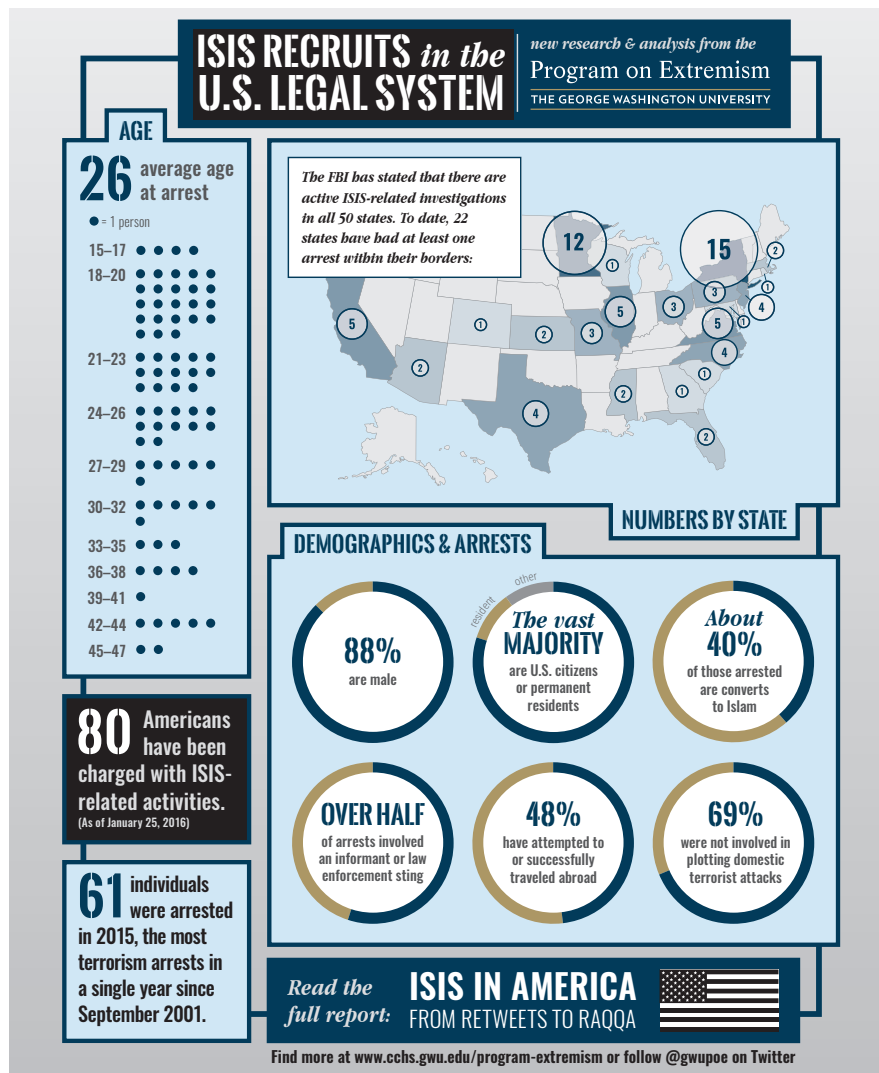
In 2009, Beghal was released and ordered to stay in Murat, France, where he met several times with Coulibaly and Kouachi. In May 2010, Beghal, Kouachi, and Coulibaly were arrested and charged with association de malfaiteurs terroriste—accused of plotting a prison-break for Smaïn Aït Ali Belkacem—who was convicted of the 1995 bombing of the Paris Metro. Beghal was sentenced to 12 years, Coulibaly—discovered with a weapons cache—was sentenced to four years and released in 2014. Kouachi was not convicted due to a lack of evidence tying him to the plot.

In an interview Beghal gave following the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks, he condemned the killings, but only as tactical errors. Had he not been in prison, Beghal said, Kouachi and Coulibaly “would probably have asked my advice before moving into violence.” He claimed he would have “guided them quite differently,” convincing them, perhaps, *Charlie Hebdo* was “a gift to Islam.” Beghal said he would have told them the “intolerance,” “disrespect,” and “contempt” of the newspaper’s cartoonists “and their imbecilic supporters” would “in the end play in favor of Islam, and the strengthening of its cause in the contemporary world.” In a letter to journalist Scott Sayare, Beghal said he does not support attacks against “easy” or non-combatant targets. “I prefer and favor the power of the just word,” Beghal wrote. “The aim of my cause is to save man, not to destroy him.”

(HARPERS)

SPOTLIGHT

ISIL Recruits in the US Legal System



The FBI stated there are active ISIL-related investigations in all 50 states, but to date arrests have only been made within 21 states. As of 25 January, 80 Americans have been charged for activities related to ISIL, with 2015 seeing the most terrorism-related arrests since September 2001.

George Washington University's Program on Extremism conducted research and analysis on ISIL recruits within the US legal system. The vast majority of individuals charged are US citizens or permanent residents. The average age of the American ISIL supporter at the time of charges is 26; however, in over 50% of cases the defendants are 25 years or younger, and in over a third of the cases they are 21 years or younger. Most charged are male. Approximately 40% of those arrested are converts to Islam. An estimated 23% of the American Muslim population are converts. Fifty-one percent of those charged attempted to travel abroad or successfully departed from the US, though since October 2015, the FBI has seen a decline in the number of Americans seeking to travel overseas. Finally, the vast majority of those charged were not involved in plotting terrorist attacks in the US; most were arrested for intent to do harm overseas or for providing material support—namely personnel and funds—to fighters in Syria and Iraq. (GWU)

ON POINT

This section consists of in-depth counterterrorism press articles including context and background information.

1 VIRGINIA: ISIL-Linked Hacker Faces Terrorism Charges

On 27 January, Kosovo citizen Ardit Ferizi*, 20, appeared in court on charges alleging he provided material support to ISIL and committed computer hacking and identity theft violations in conjunction with the theft and release of personally identifiable information (PII) of US service members and federal employees.

- Ferizi was detained by Malaysian authorities on a provisional arrest warrant on behalf of the US and charged by criminal complaint on 6 October 2015, which Ferizi subsequently waived extradition. If convicted, Ferizi faces a maximum penalty of 35 years in prison. (DOJ)

NCTC: Individuals ideologically sympathetic to foreign terrorist organizations continue to exploit the internet and social media to advance their goals, including by disseminating PII of US military, government, and law enforcement personnel to facilitate “lone wolf” attacks. First responders are highly encouraged to minimize their online footprint, limit the release of potentially sensitive information on public facing platforms, and report suspicious activities to mitigate potential targeting.

Ferizi hacked into the computer system of a US company and stole PII of more than 1,000 US service members and federal employees. He allegedly provided information to several ISIL members. (CNN)

2 HOMELAND: Hizballah Money Laundering Network Sanctioned

As of 28 January, the Department of Treasury targeted Hizballah’s financial support network sanctioning Lebanese citizens and Hizballah-affiliated money launderers Mohamad Nouredine and Hamdi Zaher El Dine, as well as Trade Point International S.A.R.L.—a company affiliated with Nouredine—under Executive Order 13224 for providing financial services to or in support of Hizballah.

- Nouredine maintains direct ties to Hizballah commercial and terrorist elements in Lebanon and Iraq. His extensive network across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East provide services to include laundering, bulk cash shipment, black market currency exchange, and other financial services. Dine an employee of Nouredine, involved in transferring funds for Hizballah members and companies. (DEPT OF TREASURY)
- As of late January, French authorities reportedly detained Mohamed Nouredine, along with three other Lebanese men—Mazen al-Atat, Ali Zbib, and Osama Fahs—based on US arrest warrants. (ALBAWABAEG)

3 NEW YORK: Man Sentenced to Nine Years for Supporting Al-Shabaab

On 29 January, Somali-born British national Mahdi Hashi, 26, was sentenced to nine years in prison for conspiring to provide material support to al-Shabaab.

- Hashi traveled from the UK to Somalia to join the terrorist group. Between December 2009 and August 2012, Hashi served as a member of al-Shabaab in Somalia. Hashi was affiliated with deceased ^{USPER}Omar Hamami and his group of American fighters, as well as individuals associated with al-Shabaab’s suicide bomber program.
- In August 2012, Hashi was apprehended by local authorities in East Africa after he left Somalia, and in November 2012 he was deported to New York for prosecution. Hashi, along with two codefendants, pleaded guilty on 12 May 2015. (DOJ)

4 WISCONSIN: Authorities Arrest Man Planning Mass Shooting

As of 26 January, ^{USPER}Samy Mohamed Hamzeh*, 23, faces federal charges after allegedly purchasing two machine guns from undercover agents as part of a plan to conduct a mass shooting on a Masonic temple. Court documents show prosecutors charged Hamzeh with unlawfully possessing a machine gun and unlawfully receiving and possessing firearms not registered to him.

* The charges listed are currently allegations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON POINT

- Hamzeh discussed plans to attack a Masonic temple in Milwaukee, intending to station one person at the temple's entrance while the other two went through the building, killing everyone they saw, with hopes of killing 30 people. Hamzah stated he wanted this mass shooting to be "known the world over" and to "ignite" broader clashes.
- In October 2015, Hamzeh planned to travel to Jordan, enter the West Bank, and conduct an attack on Israeli soldiers and citizens; however, abandoned these plans for attack planning in the US. (DOJ, AP)

5 NORTH CAROLINA: Man Indicted for Attempting to Support ISIL

On 1 February, ^{USPER}Justin Nojan Sullivan*, 19, was charged with attempting to provide material support to ISIL; receipt of a silencer in interstate commerce with intent to commit a felony; receipt and possession of an unregistered firearm; concealment and storage of a stolen firearm; use of interstate facilities in the attempted commission of a murder-for-hire; and two counts of making false statements to FBI agents. His trial is set for 22 February.

- As alleged in the indictment, Sullivan openly expressed support for ISIL and planned to conduct mass assassinations against personnel. (DOJ)

6 ILLINOIS: Man Guilty of Providing Support to ISIL

As of late January, the sentencing of ^{USPER}Jonas Edmonds, a man prosecutors say plotted with his cousin to conduct a terrorist attack at an Illinois National Guard base, has been delayed.

- Edmonds was scheduled to be sentenced on 27 January, but a late filing moved the hearing to 14 March. He pleaded guilty in a plea agreement to conspiring to provide material support to ISIL and to making a false statement to law enforcement, which carries a maximum 23-year prison term.

- Edmonds' cousin, ^{USPER}Hasan Edmonds, pleaded guilty to similar charges and will be sentenced alongside his cousin on 14 March since the sentencing date was moved. (AP)

7 MARYLAND: Man Pleads Not Guilty to Supporting ISIL

On 29 January, ^{USPER}Mohamed Elshinawy*, 30, pleaded not guilty to charges of supporting ISIL by receiving funds from overseas and plotting terror attacks in the US.

- In the summer of 2015, authorities began investigating Elshinawy after learning about suspicious money transfers he received. Authorities allege Elshinawy understood the funding was for terrorism.
- Investigators said they reviewed chat transcripts in which Elshinawy and a childhood friend allegedly discussed their support for ISIL. (AP)

8 CANADA: Air India Flight 182 Bomber Released

As of 27 January, Canadian person and Sikh violent extremist Inderjit Singh Reyat, responsible for purchasing the dynamite, detonators, and batteries used to bomb Air India Flight 182 on 23 June 1985 and killing 329 passengers, is to be released to a halfway house under strict conditions.

- Reyat was first convicted for building a bomb destined for an Air India flight departing Tokyo; however, two Japanese baggage handlers were killed before the bomb was placed on the plane. During the Air India Flight 182 trial in Vancouver, he was jointly accused with two other Sikh violent extremists for the bombing.
- Reyat, the only person convicted in the attacks, refused to name any co-conspirators during his trial and incarceration, despite knowing their identities. The parole board claims Reyat's association with the group who blew up Air India was "inactive while incarcerated," but his "affiliation has not been terminated." (CBC)

* The charges listed are currently allegations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON POINT

9 UNITED KINGDOM: Woman Convicted for Joining ISIL

On 29 January, British national Tareena Shakil, 26, was sentenced to six years in prison for joining ISIL and encouraging terrorism on social media. Authorities said Shakil self-radicalized by viewing violent extremist material on the Internet before leaving the UK. On social media, she posted encouragement for the public to commit terrorist acts and glorified ISIL. Authorities seized photos from her phone, including one showing her posing with an AK-47 and wearing an ISIL balaclava.

- In October 2014, Shakil traveled to Syria with her son, 1, and lived in a house with other women waiting to marry ISIL fighters. In February 2015, she returned to the UK and was arrested by counterterrorism police. (GUARDIAN, REUTERS)

10 SPAIN: ISIL Recruitment and Attack Planning in Catalonia

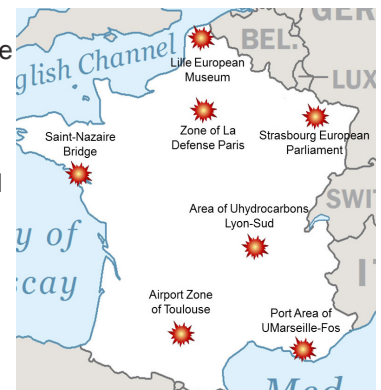
As of late January, 10 people belonging to the Islamic Brotherhood, a terrorist cell in Catalonia, are being prosecuted for an alleged crime of terrorism—to include the recruitment and indoctrination of others to join ISIL. The magistrate stated there was rational evidence the defendants were preparing to conduct an attack in Catalonia, to include telephone observations, surveillance, tracking, and statements provided.

- According to the magistrate, the cell formed in 2014 in Barcelona and Terrassa, was led by Spanish convert Antonio S.M. Antonio S.M. attempted to recruit a police officer; officers found documents and videos on violent extremism in a subsequent search of Antonio S.M.'s home. (EL MUNDO)

11 FRANCE: Document Reveals List of “Prime Terrorist Targets”

As of 22 January, France's military intelligence chiefs listed seven landmarks which could be targeted in a “coordinated” terror attack, based on their research of violent extremist social media sites. The Chairman for the Analysis of Terrorism stated France expects more complex attacks as the terrorist networks evolve. France remains on high alert after a state of emergency was declared in the wake of the 13 November 2015 Paris attacks, which resulted in 130 casualties.

- The landmarks included: the Paris, the Saint-Nazaire Bridge, the airport zone of Toulouse, the port area of Marseille-Fos, the Lyon-Sud area of hydrocarbons, the Strasbourg European Parliament, and the Lille European Museum. (FRANCE3, LOCAL)



Potential Targeted Landmarks (NGA)

NCTC:

Ensuring public safety requires information sharing, interagency coordination, and robust private sector partnerships to create a common operating picture. Security stakeholders and first responders can identify gaps to determine mitigation strategies which will strengthen security measures and ensure a rapid and adequate emergency response in the event of any emergency. Joint training between first responders and facility staff, and neighboring jurisdictions, ensure a unified response and familiarity with the infrastructure and external and internal configuration of complexes.

12 FRANCE: Security Cooperation Tightens

On 1 February, France and Belgium vowed to intensify cooperation in the fight against violent extremism. This includes an increased rapid exchange of information on potential terrorists and efforts to prevent the forgery of documents.

ON POINT

- The information exchange will include biometric data to prevent forged documents, and consulting international IT companies about encrypted messaging services. The two countries would also push for the swift introduction within the European Union of keeping track of airline travelers. (REUTERS)

13 TURKEY: Police Uncover ISIL Targeting Plans

As of late January, the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office announced they uncovered ISIL's plans to target Alevi, Kurdish, and Turkmen villages, along with hydroelectric power plants. Following ISIL's suicide attacks in October 2015, the Counterterrorism Regional Directorate at the Ankara Police Department uncovered an ISIL cell in Gaziantep Province. In a series of police raids, Yunus Durmaz, the ISIL amir of Gaziantep escaped; however, his computer was confiscated.

- The police team reportedly uncovered an attack plan against the G20 Summit, along with a list containing the offices of the Justice and Development Party and the Peoples' Democratic Party. The police search revealed ISIL's intent to work on plans leading to a civil war between the Turks and Kurds, on grounds of identity, as well as sectarian clashes. ISIL maintained maps of villages populated by Alevi Turkmen and Alevi Kurds in the region, along with maps noting military bases and police units.
- ISIL's plans also included a list of all the hydroelectric power plants in Turkey, with the dams in the east and the southeast placed at the top of the list. Police noted detailed reconnaissance was conducted regarding the most suitable attack positions. (HARBERTURK)

NCTC: This reported target selection demonstrates an ongoing interest by overseas violent extremists in targeting locations considered critical infrastructure/key resource (CI/KR) facilities. An effective response to an attack on a CI/KR facility can be re-enforced through familiarity with the building(s) and their immediate surroundings, e.g., external and internal design and structure; configuration, security protocols; evacuation and response ingress and egress considerations; and the actual location of the facility within an assigned area of responsibility. Coordination, training, and practical exercises involving facility staff and first responder agencies provides an opportunity to validate adequate security measures while emergency response plans are reviewed and updated as needed.

14 GREECE: Swedish Nationals Charged With Participating in Terrorist Group

On 28 January, two men traveling on Swedish passports were arrested in Greece carrying machetes, army uniforms, and other "combat paraphernalia." The two, traveling by bus, were detained in Alexandroupolis, near the Turkish border.

- One of the men was identified as Bosnian national Mirsad Bektasevic, 28. In 2005, Bektasevic was convicted of conspiracy to commit a terrorist offense after security services raided his Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, apartment and found explosives, a suicide belt, and violent extremist propaganda. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison but was released in 2011, after which he sought political asylum in Sweden.
- The other man was identified only as of Yemeni origin, 19. Both men were charged with carrying weapons and later ordered to be held pending trial. (REUTERS, AFP)

ON POINT

15 SAUDI ARABIA: Mosque Bombing Kills Four

On 29 January, two suicide bombers were prevented from entering the Shia Imam al-Rida Mosque in al-Ahsa; however, the bombers managed to kill four people and wound 36 others.

- One attacker who blew himself up at the entrance al-Rida mosque was Saudi national Abdulrahman al-Tuwaijiri. The second attacker—Egyptian national Talha Hisham Mohammed Abdo—randomly shot at worshippers, before being overtaken by them. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. (REUTERS, AFP, AL JAZEERA)

16 MALI: AQIM Claims Responsibility for Swiss Hostage

As of 27 January, AQIM released a video featuring Swiss missionary hostage Beatrice Stockly, who was captured in Timbuktu, Mali, on 7 January.

- AQIM stated in the video Stockly violated one of the terms of her earlier release—that she not return to any Muslim lands to continue such work. The video outlined conditions for her release to include the release of AQIM captives imprisoned by the government and of Ansar al Din Malian Leader Ahmad Wadd al-Fiqqi. (REUTERS, TWITTER, RADIO NATA)

Stockly was kidnapped in 2012 by AQIM in Timbuktu and later freed. (RADIO NATA)

17 SOMALIA: Flight Makes Emergency Landing After Explosion

On 2 February, Daallo Airlines Flight D3159 made an emergency landing in Mogadishu, after an explosion detonated shortly after take-off. The flight originated in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and was bound for Djibouti.

- Passengers reported hearing a loud bang prior to the fire. Photos of the airplane taken on the ground depict a large hole in the fuselage on the jet's right hand side, just behind its R2 door. Two people were reportedly injured, and one was possibly killed. (BLOOMBERG, THE DAILY MIRROR)



(TWITTER)

This item is highlighted for your situational awareness as the pictures would indicate an explosion inside the fuselage pushed outwards and caused the plane to decompress. There has been no claim of responsibility at this time.

(NCTC)

18 PAKISTAN: Police Foil Railway Terror Attack

On 28 January, police foiled a terrorist attack in Domeli Mor. The terrorist, who was allegedly targeting the Rawalpindi to Lahore Pakistan Express, tried to plant explosives on railway tracks when a citizen reported the “suspicious individual” to Motorway Police. As police reached the scene, the terrorist lobbed a hand grenade at security personnel and then blew himself up.

- Police recovered four hand grenades and two pistols, as well as two National Identity Cards and a vehicle from the terrorist's possession. A search was conducted in the area and two suspicious individuals were arrested. (DAWN)

ON POINT

NCTC: First responders are best positioned to detect efforts to circumvent security measures or recognize and report potential suspicious and/or pre-operational activity. This incident underscores the importance of suspicious activity reporting while the role of law enforcement investigation in thwarting a terrorist attack of reported targeting a mass/public transportation. It is important for first responders to be intimately familiar with mass transit systems—a target often selected for attack by violent extremists—in their jurisdictions. Many of the fundamental elements of mass transportation systems make them attractive targets to violent extremists. Namely, these systems are capable of carrying large numbers of people, are open and easily accessible to the public during predictable times on publicized schedules, and are vital to local economies.

19 SOUTH KOREA: Indonesians Arrested for ISIL Links

On 27 January, three Indonesian migrant workers were arrested in South Korea on suspicion of having links with ISIL. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry said two of the workers have been repatriated, although the third is still in South Korea going through legal procedures. He is expected to be back in Indonesia within the next few weeks.

- The three workers were suspected of being involved with ISIL after they established contact through social media. Indonesia's Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers said there is a possibility more Indonesian workers could be involved in such activities. **(CHANNEL NEW ASIA)**

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

This section informs readers on methods terrorists are utilizing overseas which could be employed domestically.

ISIL Methods Targeting Teenagers

Prior to its creation, groups had to rely on the printed word or mainstream news to spread its messages. Using open access platforms on the Internet means images and ideas can travel around the world in an instant. ISIL's rise has been supported by the use of a new and potent weapon-social media.

Posing as 25-year-old "Zahra" from England, an undercover reporter started following a number of ISIL linked social media accounts. She was contacted by a number of people claiming links with the group. One ISIL terrorist insisted they should talk online and within the first 30 minutes of chatting with her, asked her to marry him and encouraged "Zahra" to "join him."

- Zahra noted: "I was soon exposed to what people call on-line grooming. This was something I had only heard of or read about but had never personally experienced. So what followed came as a rude shock that left me at times feeling stressed, anxious and emotional."
- Dr. Katherine Brown, from the University of Birmingham said: "Social media has enabled extremist groups much faster and wider reach than they would have in the past. In addition it has encouraged them to address their messages to different audiences, because it's a relatively cheap medium of communication. We therefore see a variety of publications in different languages and styles focusing on different "target groups." They are acutely aware of the power of good, slick media messaging, and so despite the shifts in tone or focus there is a constant message delivered by the group." (BBC)

At least 700 people from the UK have traveled to support or fight for violent extremist organizations in Syria and Iraq, British police say. About half have since returned to Britain. Most of those who went to the conflict zone are thought to have joined ISIL. (BBC)

NCTC: The use of social media offers expanded reach of violent extremist ideology as a recruitment tool. The drivers of radicalization are not universal and differ from region to region; because of this dynamic, it is vital for first responders to establish close-knit community relationships to understand the potential drivers specific to their locality. FBI and DHS both maintain Internet portals containing Countering Violent Extremists (CVE) training resources, hundreds of the most current CVE training materials, case studies, analytic products, and other resources, including pre-incident indicators. Further information on the portal can be found at: www.dhs.gov/cveas-portal.

Indonesian Authorities Intend to Revoke Terrorist Passports

On 27 January, the Indonesian Government stated they intend to revoke the passports of Indonesians named on the country's most wanted list in relation to terrorism to prevent them from traveling.

- The plan will also target people suspected of being members of ISIL, stated the Directorate General of Immigration spokesperson, adding the policy would be implemented soon after the Law and Human Rights Minister issued the decree. "We will definitely take action if there is a request from the relevant agencies. We will also work with the defense forces, such as the National Police and the Indonesian Military," Heru said.
- The Immigration Director General said revoking the passports of those on the most wanted list, who were issued travel bans, would effectively prevent the suspects from traveling abroad. There are 297 Indonesians on the most wanted terror list. Before revoking their passports, the government will check the status of the fugitives to be banned from entering or leaving Indonesia based on a request from the National Police. (JAKARTA POST)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

Green-on-Blue Attack Kills Ten Afghan Police

On 26 January, an Afghan policeman drugged and shot dead 10 of his coworkers in the central province of Uruzgan; the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. The policeman had connections with armed militants. The suspect was on the run, while a convoy of police heading for the checkpoint repelled a Taliban attack with no casualties sustained.

- “Green-on-blue” attacks—when Afghan soldiers or police turn their guns on international troops or colleagues—has been a major problem during NATO’s years fighting alongside Afghan forces. (AL JAZEERA)

Turkey: ISIL Terrorists to Disguise as Football Fans to Conduct Attacks

As of 26 January, according to Turkish intelligence reports, ISIL is reportedly telling its fighters to dress and act like football fans to avoid attention from security officials. Under the same instructions, they were advised to travel around Turkey during the weekends when football games are played, while wearing football tops and scarfs to ensure they are better disguised, and hide their true identity.

(MILLIYET)

NCTC: Impersonation techniques—assuming the identity, behavior, or appearance of another to blend into a surrounding environment—are being used by terrorists. Disguises used in an attack could vary greatly and exploit factors associated with social norms of culture, religion, gender or climate, to gain access to potential targets. First responders and security stakeholders in the Homeland should consider that this tactic may be used in Homeland attack—particularly if it is successfully employed in an overseas attack.

Turkey: Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Deputy Lures Security Forces With False Reporting

In late January, a deputy for HDP—caught allegedly delivering arms to Kurdistan Worker’s Party (PKK) terrorists—reportedly attempted to lure security forces into a trap in the Cizre district, Şırnak province, Turkey, by reporting that “30 people have been wounded in the basement of a building and cannot reach an ambulance.” Security forces accompanied health personnel to the provided address under suspicion it was a ruse, since the area has been laden with heavy clashes with PKK terrorists. When the ambulance and security forces arrived, terrorists opened fire on the ambulance and security forces from the building. (ISTANBUL DAILY SABAH)

NCTC: This overseas terrorist attack highlights the tactic of luring, the use of misinformation to draw security personnel or first responders to a specific location. The tactic of luring first responders to a scene and perpetrating an attack exploits a key dynamic of first responders’ duties—the ability to draw responders to a given location—to draw them into a premeditated trap.

PARTING SHOTS

This section includes press articles with concise summaries for rapid consumption.

1 UNITED KINGDOM: Teacher Banned From Teaching for Plans to Commit Terrorism

As of late January, British teacher Jamshed Jayeed, 31, was banned from Britain's classrooms for life after plotting to commit mass murder with ISIL in Syria; he was jailed for six years in March 2015. The Court heard how he engaged in providing financial and logistical support for his younger brother, Mohammed, 21, to fight, along with preparing to travel to Syria to join the fight himself. In December 2013, his wife stopped him from traveling to Syria and he was arrested. Bailed, he was re-arrested in March 2014 after police found large quantities of violent extremist propaganda on his phones and hard drives. (TELEGRAPH)

2 UNITED KINGDOM: Terror Suspect Arrested at Gatwick Airport

On 30 January, an unnamed terror suspect, 21, was arrested at Gatwick Airport on suspicion of information collecting offenses under the Terrorism Act 2000, by the South East Counter Terrorism Unit. Police noted there was no threat to the airport or passengers at any stage. The man is on bail until 5 April. (MIRROR)

3 FRANCE: Authorities Arrest Five Planning Attacks on Night Spots

On 2 February, French authorities arrested five people planning attacks on night spots and departing for Syria. Four men and one woman purchased bus tickets to join violent extremists in Syria, via Bulgaria and Turkey. They were also trying to obtain weapons to attack French night spots. (AP)

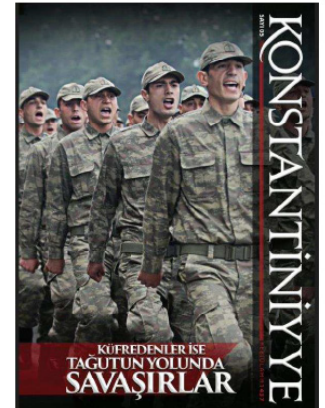
4 AUSTRIA: Teen Back in Court for ISIL Propaganda Distribution

On 27 January, an ISIL sympathizer, 15, was charged again with supporting ISIL. Appearing in court for the second time, he was charged with distributing ISIL propaganda.

- He was sentenced last year for admitting to plotting an attack against the Westbahnhof railway station in Vienna; however, was released after serving part of a two-year conditional sentence for supporting ISIL and researching how to build bombs on the Internet. (LOCAL)

5 TURKEY: ISIL Posts Fifth Edition of *Konstantiniyye*

On 26 January, ISIL released the fifth edition of its' Turkish-language magazine titled "*Konstantiniyye*," on social media. Produced by ISIL's al-Hayat Media center, the latest edition deemed serving in the Turkish army in support of the government a "sin" and said targeting soldiers for killing was legitimate. Some of the content within the Turkish edition is mirrored in ISIL's English-language magazine *Dabiq*. (TWITTER)



(TWITTER)

6 YEMEN: AQAP Reclaims Azzan

On 1 February, AQAP reclaimed the town of Azzan in the Shabwa province, according to residents. "Dozens of al-Qa'ida gunmen arrived in the early hours of the morning and set up checkpoints at the entrances to the town and in its streets. They planted their black flag on government buildings," one resident advised. According to a resident, "they (AQAP) faced no resistance or clashes," adding tribal militia forces quit the area as it was being taken over. (REUTERS)

7 YEMEN: Top Salafist Cleric Killed

On 31 January, Yemen's top Salafist cleric, Samahan Abdel-Aziz, was found dead in Aden. On 30 January, he was abducted by gunmen outside his mosque in the pro-government neighborhood of Bureiq. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. (AP)

8 YEMEN: ISIL Attacks Aden Checkpoint

On 29 January, two people were killed and five wounded in a suicide car bomb attack on a police checkpoint in Aden. ISIL claimed responsibility in a statement posted online, naming the attacker as Oweis al-Adani. (REUTERS)

PARTING SHOTS

9 YEMEN: ISIL Targets Aden Governor

On 28 January, ISIL claimed responsibility for a VBIED attack targeting the Governor of Aden, Yemen, near the Presidential Palace. The attack was conducted by Dutch ISIL operative Abu Hunaifa al-Hollandi and reportedly resulted in seven dead and at least ten injured.

(TRACTERRORISM)




Photo of Abu Hunaifa al-Hollandi (TWITTER)

10 SYRIA: Suicide Attack Kills 70

As of 1 February, the death toll from a suicide attack in Damascus, claimed by ISIL, rose to more than 70, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. A car bomb and two suicide bombers attacked a military bus carrying members conducting a shift change, in the Sayeda Zeinab district, home to Syria's holiest Shia shrine.

(REUTERS)



BREAKING NEWS 50 RAFIDAH MUSHRIKIN KILLED AND 120 WOUNDED IN 2 ISTISHHADI OPERATIONS IN SAYYIDAH ZAYNAB

ISLAMIC STATE
Wilayat Dimashq
20 Rabi' al-Akhir 1437

TWO SOLDIERS OF THE KHILAFAH MANAGED TO EXECUTE 2 ISTISHHADI OPERATIONS AGAINST A RAFIDAH MUSHRIKIN DEN IN THE AREA OF AS-SAYYIDAH ZAYNAB IN DIMASHQ, KILLING AROUND 50 AND WOUNDING NEARLY 120 RAFIDAH MUSHRIKIN. JUST AS THEY KILL, SO SHALL THEY BE KILLED. JUST AS THEY BOMBARD, SO SHALL THEY BE DETONATED. THEY WILL HAVE NO SAFETY FROM STRIKES OF THE MUJAHIDIN, BY THE PERMISSION OF ALLAH, AND ALLAH PREVAILS OVER HIS AFFAIR, BUT MOST PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW.

(TWITTER)

11 NIGERIA: Violent Extremists Conducts Attack; Kill 65

On 30 January, violent extremists conducted an attack in Dalori, which killed 65 people and left dozens injured. The attackers entered the town in two cars and on motorcycles, opening fire on residents and burning down houses. Additionally, three female suicide bombers were involved in the attack, as people ran for their lives. Boko Haram is suspected of conducting the attack. (REUTERS)

Boko Haram is known for hit-and-run attacks on villages, as well as suicide bombings at places of worship or markets. (REUTERS)

12 NIGERIA: Suicide Bombers Attack Chibok

On 27 January, multiple suicide bombings at a Chibok market left 18 people dead to include 17 civilians and a soldier. The army confirmed the suicide bombers were men wearing hijabs, disguising the bombs on their backs to look like babies. Boko Haram is suspected of conducting the attack. (AP, NIGERIAN TRIBUNE, INDEPENDENT)

13 TUNISIA: Authorities Dismantle ISIL Recruiting Cell

As of 27 January, the Interior Ministry stated Tunisia's special forces counterterrorism unit dismantled a cell recruiting fighters for ISIL in Libya and Syria. The cell included nine violent extremists actively recruiting personnel. Those arrested admitted to recruiting for ISIL. (REUTERS)

14 RWANDA: Police Arrest ISIL Suspects

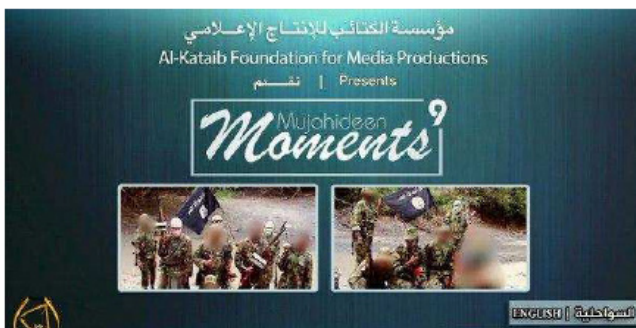
On 1 February, Rwandan police arrested several people suspected of being linked to ISIL. Police declined to say exactly how many people were arrested but said at least some of the suspects they were pursuing fled the country. The group's aim was to recruit new ISIL members, the police said. The police also seized violent extremist propaganda including books, CDs, and social network messages. (REUTERS)

PARTING SHOTS

15 SOMALIA: Al-Shabaab Releases Ninth Video

As of 28 January, al-Shabaab's al-Kataib Media Foundation released their ninth video on social media titled "Al-Shabaab Mujahideen Moments 9." The video in Swahili—with English subtitles and Arabic sentences—urged Muslims to join the fight with al-Shabaab in Somalia, and showcased two separate ambushes of Kenyan troops in Lamu, Kenya.

(TWITTER, LONG WAR JOURNAL)



(TWITTER)

16 TUNISIA: Police Clash with Violent Extremists

On 1 February, the Interior Ministry stated the Tunisian security forces clashed with violent extremists in the southern region of Gabes, killing at least two terrorists and injuring a policeman. (REUTERS)

17 AFGHANISTAN: Suicide Bomber Strikes Kabul Police Office

On 1 February, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive outside a police station in Kabul, killing 20 people and wounding 20. The target of the bomb was the headquarters of the Afghan National Civil Order Police. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. (REUTERS, CNN)

18 PHILIPPINES: Security Forces Foil Abu Sayyaf Bombing Plot

On 28 January, security forces foiled an Abu Sayyaf IED plot to attack Isabela City. The security force spotted two riders on a motorcycle without a plate, carrying a suspicious item, which they abandoned outside a bazaar. Police said the IED was fashioned through a cooking pot, and alerted its K-9 team and EOD teams to dismantle the IED. (PHILSTAR)

NCTC: The recognition, reporting, and investigation of suspicious activity is crucial to terrorism prevention. This open source reporting highlights that first responders are in the unique position to play an important role in detecting and preventing attacks because of their frequent interactions with the public; especially during calls for service which provide an opportunity to identify suspicious activity with a potential nexus to terrorism. JCAT notes rudimentary devices are typically particularly unstable and should be treated accordingly until rendered safe is underscored by the request for subject matter experts by on-scene personnel.

19 INDIA: Security Forces Kill Three Militants in Kashmir

Between 29 and 30 January, Indian security forces conducted a raid targeting a house in Dardpora, Kashmir, killing three militants. Lashkar-e-Tayyiba commander Abu Usama, a.k.a. Zarar, was reportedly among the dead. (THE INDIAN REPUBLIC)



Cache Recovered

(TWITTER)



NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER (NCTC)

NCTC serves as the primary organization in the US Government for integrating and analyzing all intelligence pertaining to terrorism possessed or acquired by the US Government (except purely domestic terrorism); serves as the central and shared knowledge bank on terrorism information; provides all-source intelligence support to government-wide counterterrorism activities; establishes the information technology (IT) systems and architectures within NCTC and between NCTC and other agencies that enable access to, as well as integration, dissemination, and use of, terrorism information.

NCTC serves as the principal advisor to the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) on intelligence operations and analysis relating to counterterrorism, advising the DNI on how well US intelligence activities, programs, and budget proposals for counterterrorism conform to priorities established by the President.