

COUNTERTERRORISM WEEKLY

6-12 DECEMBER 2018

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(U) Counterterrorism Weekly is an UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY compilation of open source publicly available press and relevant commentary on issues related to terrorism and counterterrorism over the past seven days. It is produced every Wednesday, excluding holidays. Counterterrorism Weekly is produced by the National Counterterrorism Center and contains situational awareness items detailing ongoing terrorism-related developments which may be of interest to Federal, State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement, security, military personnel, and first responders. Information contained in the Counterterrorism Weekly is subject to change as a situation further develops. The inclusion of a report in Counterterrorism Weekly is not confirmation of its credibility or accuracy of the information contained therein nor does it imply NCTC's official view or endorsement. Comments and requests for information pertaining to articles featured in Counterterrorism Weekly may be directed to nctcpao@nctc.gov.

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US NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

COUNTERTERRORISM WEEKLY

EXECUTIVES' VIEW



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SPOTLIGHT SUMMARY

(U) **TERRORIST PROFILE: FORMER JORDANIAN ISIS OFFICIAL SA'D AL-HUNAYTI:** Jordanian national Sa'd al-Hunayti was a leading member of the Jihadist Salafi movement in Jordan before he traveled to Syria and joined Nusrah Front then ISIS. Hunayti was ultimately arrested by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) for reportedly being a leader in ISIS-run secret cells in Idlib Province, Syria, that planted IEDs and conducted kidnappings and assassinations in northwest Syria. (ARABI21, [ASSABEEL](#), HTS, [MEMRI](#), [SYRIA CALL](#))

SPOTLIGHT

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

(U) Terrorist Profile: Former Jordanian ISIS Official Sa'd Al-Hunayti

(U) Jordanian national Sa'd al-Hunayti was a leading member of the Jihadist Salafi movement in Jordan before he traveled to Syria and joined Nusra Front then ISIS. Hunayti was ultimately arrested by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) for reportedly being a leader in ISIS-run secret cells in Idlib Province, Syria, that planted IEDs and conducted kidnappings and assassinations in northwest Syria.

(U) During the 1980s, Hunayti studied history at Yarmouk University in north Jordan and was suspended twice for "his political positions." During this period, he was influenced by Sayyid Qutb's idea of "governance," according to Dr. Muhammad Abu-Rumman, a Jordanian researcher who specializes in Political Thought and Islamic Movements. (Sayyid Qutb was the Spotlight topic in the 23 May 2018 issue of this publication.)

(U) In 2011, Hunayti was arrested by Jordanian security forces after demonstrations in Al Zarqa that called for governmental and constitutional reforms. The protests were led by the Islamist movement, which dominated the political opposition, and by the popular protest movement, which encompassed numerous pro-reform organizations. Hunayti was released from Jordanian custody in October 2013.

(U) In April 2014, Hunayti traveled to Syria at the behest of senior Salafi Jihadi ideologue Abu-Muhammad al-Maqdisi to mediate between Nusra Front and ISIS during their clashes in Deir az-Zour. Bassam al-Nu'aymi, an activist in the Jihadist Salafi movement in Jordan, said that after the failure of his reconciliation initiative, Hunayti received an offer from Nusra Front leader Abu-Muhammad al-Jawlani to become a Sharia judge and head of the courthouse in northern Syria. The judicial branch faced controversy due to suspicious verdicts, leading to tensions with the Nusra Front leadership that Hunayti viewed as hindering his "implementation of sharia."

(U) In October 2014, Hunayti defected from Nusra Front and pledged allegiance to ISIS amir Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He became the "head of education" for ISIS in Ar Raqqa. He defected from ISIS in May 2018, allegedly due to the group's oppressive practices.

(U) On 22 June, HTS—previously Nusra Front—arrested Hunayti on accusations that he ran ISIS assassination cells in Idlib. As of late June, Jordanian HTS leaders were attempting to obtain his release.

(U) On 5 September, senior HTS member Abu-al-Fath al-Farghali released a statement that rumors of HTS handing Hunayti over to Turkish authorities were false and that Hunayti would face a sharia trial. (ARABI21, [ASSABEEL](#), [HTS](#), [MEMRI](#), [SYRIA CALL](#))



(U) Sa'd al-Hunayti (SYRIA CALL)

ON POINT

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

1 OHIO: (U) Court Convicts Man of Attempting to Join ISIS

(U) On 6 December, a judge convicted ^{USPER}Laith Waleed Alebbini, 28, for attempting and conspiring to join ISIS. In September, Alebbini waived his right to a jury trial.

- (U) In April 2017, Alebbini was arrested as he tried to board a flight to Jordan from the Cincinnati Airport, with the intent to join ISIS in Syria to be “an inghimasi soldier”—a suicide bomber who seeks to cause as much death and destruction as possible prior to detonation.
- (U) Alebbini is scheduled to be sentenced on 8 March 2019. ([DOJ](#))

JCAT: (U) The Ohio conviction serves to remind first responders of the importance of recognizing and disrupting material support efforts to foreign terrorist organizations, including potential travel to foreign conflict zones by recognizing observable behaviors associated with these activities. The Roll Call Release “Common Pre-Travel Activities of Aspiring US Foreign Fighters” (8 March 2016) offers observable behaviors to help identify those most at risk, and is available on the JCAT Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI’s Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). (**JCAT**)

2 OHIO: (U) Court Charges Man With Attempting to Support ISIS

(U) On 10 December, a court charged ^{USPER}Damon M. Joseph*, 21, with one count of attempting to provide material support to ISIS after he allegedly planned to attack a synagogue in support of the group.

- (U) Joseph allegedly planned to target a Toledo-area synagogue for a mass-casualty attack in the name of ISIS. He was arrested on 7 December after he took possession of two AR-15 rifles, allegedly to be used in the attack.

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

- (U) During his communication with undercover agents, Joseph allegedly stated he supported ISIS. In September, he allegedly made videos that he sent to the undercover agent, hoping they would be used to recruit people to ISIS. ([DOJ](#), [NBC](#))

JCAT: (U//FOUO) Houses of worship may employ limited security measures and are open and accessible to the public. The physical layout and operational characteristics of some religious facilities may create a complex environment for emergency personnel responding to calls for service. First responders can help improve security protocols, increase awareness of suspicious activity indicators, and ultimately improve the ability to detect, deter, and disrupt potential plots through community outreach. The First Responder’s Toolbox “Threats Against Religious Facilities and Adherents Highlight Importance of Religious Community Outreach” (19 July 2017) includes an unclassified appendix to assist with outreach, and is available on the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI’s Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). (**JCAT**)

3 WASHINGTON, D.C.: (U) US-Designated Hizballah Supporter Pleads Guilty to Money Laundering

(U) On 6 December, Lebanese national Kassim Tajideen, 63—operator of businesses in Lebanon and Africa whom the US Department of the Treasury designated as an important financial supporter to Hizballah—pleaded guilty to charges associated with evading US sanctions imposed on him.

- (U) Tajideen pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder monetary instruments, in furtherance of violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). He conspired with at least five other individuals to conduct over US \$50 million in transactions with US businesses that violated these prohibitions. In addition, Tajideen and his co-conspirators knowingly engaged in transactions outside of the US, which involved transmissions of as much as US \$1 billion through the US financial system from places outside the US.

ON POINT

- (U) In May 2009, Tajideen was designated by the US Department of the Treasury as a specially designated global terrorist as a result of his provision of significant financial support to Hizballah. The designation prohibited him from being involved in, or benefiting from transactions, involving US persons or companies without a license from the Department of the Treasury. ([DOJ](#))

4 NEW YORK: (U) Court Rejects Appeal of Suspect in Foiled New Year's Attack

(U) On 6 December, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan rejected convicted terrorist ^{USPER}Emanuel Lutchman's appeal.

- (U) The judge said he rejected the appeal because Lutchman, who was sentenced in January 2017 to 20 years in prison for planning an ISIS-inspired attack in Rochester in 2015, reaffirmed his allegiance to ISIS during his sentencing and told the judge more people like him would "rise up." ([AP](#), [COURT DOCUMENTS](#))

5 DOMINICA: (U) Civil Aviation Officers Conduct Anti-Terrorism Training

(U) In early December, two aviation officers led an international anti-terrorism training program focused on screening as the first line of defense against terrorism in international aviation.

- (U) The training was provided to the Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authority and was intended to enhance "screeners'" ability to detect threats using x-ray machines, metal detection portals, physical search techniques, and explosive trace detection technologies. ([WIC NEWS](#))

JCAT: (U//FOUO) Transportation officials continue to assess the security environment as terrorists remain interested in targeting the transportation sector, particularly aviation targets. In an effort to combat the ongoing threat posed by terrorist and criminal actors looking to exploit the aviation sector, information sharing among stakeholders is encouraged through routine meetings, briefings, or other information exchanges. Partners, including federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government partners; airport officials; and other private sector representatives should foster collaboration and create a common understanding of the threat environment and available resources. To further enhance information sharing and coordinate efforts among aviation sector partners, the First Responder's Toolboxes "Threats to Airports" (21 March 2017) and "Complex Operating Environment–Airports 2018" (14 March 2018) are available on the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI's Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). (**JCAT**)

6 CANADA: (U) Government Hosts Meeting of Anti-ISIS Coalition

(U) On 6 December, the Canadian Government held a meeting for 13 members of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS in Ottawa.

- (U) The meeting followed up on previous June discussions that occurred in Brussels, Belgium, and focused on the Coalition's continued efforts to counter the ISIS threat, assessments of recent progress, and discussions of challenges ahead. ([RADIO CANADA INTERNATIONAL](#))

ON POINT

7 AUSTRALIA: (U) Court Sentences Teen for 2016 Terror Plot

(U) On 11 December, a court sentenced a teen, 18, to at least 12 years in prison for planning an ISIS-inspired attack with another teen.

- (U) In October 2016, the teens purchased two M9 bayonets and were intercepted by police as they headed into a prayer hall.
- (U) In September, the teen was found guilty of doing acts in preparation for, or planning, a terrorist act. The court was unable to reach a verdict on his friend, who was tried at the same time. He will be retried in 2019.
- (U) Weeks before his arrest, the teen downloaded an issue of ISIS' *Rumiyah*, which included an article urging Australian readers to kill non-believers: "Kill them on the streets of Brunswick, Broadmeadows, Bankstown, and Bondi. Kill them at the MCG, the SCG, the Opera House, and even in their backyards." ([SYDNEY MORNING HERALD](#))

8 AUSTRALIA: (U) New Bill Gives Authorities Power to Access Encrypted Communications Used by Terrorists

(U) On 6 December, the Australian Government passed a bill that requires tech companies to help police and intelligence agencies see encrypted messages by breaking the encryption.

- (U) According to officials, the police and national security agencies still require a warrant to access the encrypted messages. ([NEWS.COM](#), [FINANCIAL TIMES](#))

9 AUSTRALIA: (U) Police Host Forum in Melbourne Aimed at Combating Terrorism

(U) In mid-December, CT experts from multiple countries attended a three-day forum on combating and deterring terror attacks.

- (U) New South Wales and Queensland representatives, the UK's Metropolitan Police, a retired chief of police from Edmonton in Canada, and a representative of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department were in attendance.
- (U) Deputy Commissioner Specialist Operations Wendy Steendam said the group discussed past, present, and future actions to inform their understanding of local, national, and global threats. "The threat of terrorism and violent extremists has no bounds and that is how we have to police this ever emerging and complex issue," Steendam said. ([9NEWS](#))

JCAT: (U//FOUO) First responder safety starts with a baseline understanding of the most current tactics, techniques, procedures, and trends used by terrorist groups. Enhanced engagements such as Australia's forum, highlight how officials can gain a better understanding of the current threat environment in order to identify gaps to determine mitigation strategies which provide an opportunity to strengthen security measures and ensure preparation of rapid and adequate emergency response plans in the event of an incident. The First Responder's Toolboxes "Terrorists Likely To Attack Opportunistic Targets Using Readily Available Weapons, Limiting Time for Detection and Disruption" (9 May 2017) and "Elements of Attacks Defined by Attackers, Tactics, Targets, and Weapons" (22 July 2014) offer planning, outreach, training, and investigation considerations to help ensure situational awareness, while encouraging first responders to work with local, state, and federal partners, to study and learn from disrupted plot scenarios, and ensure interagency cooperation, security measures, and emergency responses plans remain current and effective. These products are available on the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI's Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). ([JCAT](#))

ON POINT

10 EUROPE: (U) UK Government Issues Travel Advice to Citizens During Christmas Holiday

(U) In early December, the UK's Foreign Office (FCO) updated its advice to citizens traveling across Europe and visiting Christmas markets, warning them to remain vigilant.

- (U) The guidance was issued for European countries, including France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, and Italy.
- (U) The FCO stated, "There is a general threat from terrorism. There may be increased security in place over the Christmas and New Year period, including at Christmas markets and other major events that might attract large crowds."
- (U) Separately, the UK warned citizens of a heightened threat of terrorist attacks in South Africa. Officials warned that attacks could be indiscriminate and target places visited by foreigners, such as shopping areas in major cities. ([UK GOV](#), [INDEPENDENT](#), [ALL AFRICA](#))

JCAT: (U//FOUO) The DHS/FBI/NCTC Joint Intelligence Bulletin "Holiday Celebrations, Large Crowds Remain Attractive Targets; Vigilance Encouraged During Holiday Season" (10 December 2018) offers similar advice for first responders and event planners. To assist in developing partnerships needed to deter, prevent, disrupt, and respond to terrorist attacks, the First Responder's Toolboxes "Complex Operating Environment – Soft Targets" (18 August 2017), "Terrorists Likely To Attack Opportunistic Targets Using Readily Available Weapons, Limiting Time for Detection and Disruption" (9 May 2017), and "Terrorist Attacks Against Bars, Restaurants, and Nightclubs Worldwide Highlight Importance of Public and Private Sector Partnerships in the Homeland" (9 January 2017) promote CT coordination. These products are available on the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI's Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). (**JCAT**)

11 UNITED KINGDOM: (U) Court Sentences Man for Possessing Terrorism Documents

(U) On 7 December, ^{UKPER}Christopher Partington, 33, was sentenced to three years in jail after he pleaded guilty to six counts relating to the possession of a document or record likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, and one of possession of ammunition.

- (U) In May, UK authorities conducted a raid on Partington's residence and uncovered "numerous documents and manuals detailing how to make explosives and the impact explosions have."
- (U) During the raid, officers also found thousands of images of guns, knives, and "hostage-type situations," as well as videos of beheadings and torture. ([BBC](#))

12 GERMANY: (U) Court Sentences Taliban Member to Six Years in Prison

(U) On 10 December, a court found German citizen Thomas K., 37, guilty of fighting for the Taliban and sentenced him to six years in prison.

- (U) In August 2012, Thomas K. traveled to Pakistan and fought for the Taliban for five years. He participated in one of the group's suicide attack units, produced explosives, searched for possible targets, and prepared himself to conduct a suicide attack.
- (U) In the spring of 2017, Thomas K. moved to the Taliban's special "Red Unit" in Helmand and participated in the construction of IEDs and planning suicide attacks.
- (U) In February 2018, Thomas K. was arrested during a military operation by Afghan security forces and transferred to German custody in April. ([DW](#))

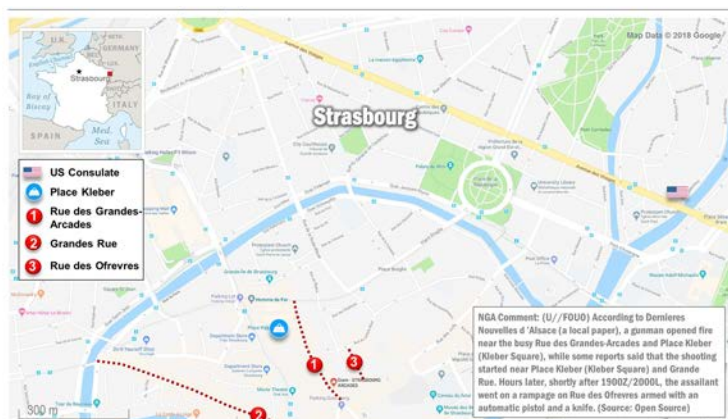
ON POINT

13 **FRANCE:** (U) Gunman Kills Three at Strasbourg Christmas Market

(U) On 11 December, a gunman entered the perimeter of the Strasbourg Christmas market by the city's Corbeau Bridge and began shooting at passers-by on the Rue des Orfèvres, killing three and wounding at least 12. The suspect, identified as Cherif Chekatt, 29, fled the scene after police shot and injured him. Authorities were treating the shooting as a possible terror attack.

- (U) As of 12 December, Chekatt remained at-large, and authorities could not rule out the possibility that he was able to leave France. The French Government raised the security alert level and reinforced border controls as the search for Chekatt continued.
- (U) Earlier in the day, police attempted to bring Chekatt in for questioning as part of a homicide investigation, but he was not home. Five people were detained and under interrogation as part of that investigation.
- (U) Chekatt was known to police and was on France's "Fiche S" surveillance file as a suspected violent extremist. He previously spent time in prison for robbery in France and Germany, where authorities suspected he may have been radicalized to violence.
- (U) There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. ([AFP](#), [CNN](#), [REUTERS](#))

(U) In 2016, 12 people were killed in a vehicle ramming attack at a Berlin Christmas market. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack. Several arrests were made in Strasbourg. In 2000, al-Qa'ida-linked operatives planned to target the Strasbourg Cathedral and Christmas market on New Year's Eve; however, German and French authorities foiled the plot. Fourteen people were later convicted of participating in the plot in both French and German courts. ([AFP](#), [CNN](#))



(U//FOUO) Map showing attack location (**DIGITAL GLOBE**)



(U) Cherif Chekatt (**TELEGRAPH**)

ON POINT

14 **FRANCE:** (U) Authorities Arrest Three in Connection With March Attack

(U) On 11 December, French authorities conducted an anti-terror operation in the Aude as part of the investigation of the 23 March attacks in Trèbes and Carcassonne that killed four.

- (U) In October, police arrested six people who were suspected of involvement in the attacks; three were charged with criminal association with terrorists, and three were released. ([FRANCEINFO](#), [EFE](#), [L'INDEPENDANT](#))

(U) On 23 March, French-Moroccan national Radouane Lakdim—who had suspected links to the radical Salafist movement—conducted a shooting attack on a vehicle in Carcassonne, killing one passenger before he took hostages at a supermarket in Trebes, which resulted in the deaths of a worker, customer, and police officer. Lakdim was killed by police, ending the stand-off at the supermarket. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack.

(EFE, ISIS)

15 **FRANCE:** (U) Court Indicts Two Suspected Members of 13 November 2015 Paris Attacks Cell

(U) On 6 December, Sofien Ayari and Ali El Haddad Asufi—two alleged members of the Franco-Belgian violent jihadist cell that led the November 2015 Paris attacks—were indicted in Paris. The two were indicted in France for being complicit in assassinations, assassination attempts, and belonging to a terrorist group in connection to the 2015 attacks.

- (U) The two were temporally transferred from Belgian custody to France for the indictment and to appear in front of a French magistrate. ([FRANCEINFO WITH AFP](#))

16 **MOROCCO:** (U) Authorities Dismantle ISIS-Affiliated Cells, Arrest Nine

(U) On 11 December, the Moroccan Interior Ministry announced security forces dismantled an ISIS-affiliated cell in Kenitra and arrested three members.

- (U) One of the cell's members was in contact with a violent extremist suspect arrested on 9 November in Aït Melloul for his alleged involvement with an individual planning attacks in Morocco.
- (U) On 7 December, the Interior Ministry announced security forces dismantled another ISIS-affiliated cell in Beni Mellal and arrested six members.
- (U) The suspects in both cells allegedly planned to conduct terror attacks in Morocco. Security forces confiscated multiple electronic devices, knives, and ISIS propaganda. ([ASHARQ AL-AWSAT](#), [LA VIE ECO](#))

17 **SOUTH KOREA:** (U) Court Sentences Syrian to Three Years in Jail for Promoting ISIS

(U) On 6 December, an unidentified Syrian man, 33, was found guilty of violating South Korean anti-terrorism laws and inciting people to join ISIS, and was subsequently sentenced to three years in jail. The subject was located in South Korea for at least 10 years on a humanitarian stay permit and traveled between Korea and Syria.

- (U) According to the court, the subject uploaded videos and posts of ISIS on social media, and connected people to an ISIS chatroom on Telegram.
- (U) In addition, the subject also had ISIS member commandments, posters of ISIS, and a list of Europeans ISIS members on a phone.
- (U) This was the first court ruling on a violation of the anti-terrorism law since it was enacted in 2016. ([KOREA HERALD](#), [UPI](#))

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

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

(U) New York Police Official Says Terror Propaganda Remains Effective Recruitment Tool Despite Groups Losing Territory

(U) In early December, Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller stated in an interview that even though territories held by violent extremist groups like al-Qa'ida and ISIS have decreased, the groups' global propaganda reach is still proving to be an effective recruitment tool, inspiring uncomplicated but deadly terror attacks in the US.

- (U) Miller cited in particular al-Qa'ida's "sophisticated" external operations bureau, which was charged with recruiting potential followers, assembling terrorist cells, and professionally managing complex plots. "That's a giant threat," he said.
- (U) Miller said propaganda now easily reaches potential extremists online and can have the dual effect of inspiring deadly attacks while also desensitizing individuals to violence. It can also make stopping lone-wolf attacks harder, Miller said, because they become inherently less traceable. "When the conspiracy is between this person's mind up here and that glowing computer screen a foot away," Miller said, "that's a very small space to collect intelligence in between. That's a very hard place to get into." (CBS)

(U) Report Outlines Strategies for Rehabilitating Convicted Terrorists in the US

(U) In early December, the Counter Extremism Project (CEP) sponsored a report written by the co-founders of Parallel Networks, outlining strategies for rehabilitating terrorists in US prisons.

- (U) The report, titled "When Terrorists Come Home: The Need for Rehabilitating and Reintegrating America's Convicted Jihadists," indicated the US was facing a pending, pressing CT challenge as nearly a quarter of individuals with terrorism-related convictions were set to be released from prison over the next five years.

- (U) According to the authors, while it is possible that these individuals will commit offenses at a lower rate than other federal prisoners, it is still likely their recidivism rate will not be zero. The US has neither established a formal rehabilitation and re-entry program for convicted terrorists nor developed infrastructure to support individuals upon their release.
- (U) The authors provided potential policy solutions and goals toward amending the threat, including the US Government creating and implementing a program fostering successful rehabilitation and reentry for violent extremist offenders; the US Government piloting a voluntary program for former violent extremist offenders in advance of their release dates to reduce the likelihood of recidivism; utilizing pre-existing infrastructure, policy, and practice to develop similar in-prison initiatives tailored to violent extremist offenders; and community organizations taking on the role of complementing and supporting the work of governmental entities. (CEP)

JCAT: (U//FOUO) Ensuring that supervised release officers, such as probation and parole, and corrections personnel are involved in federal, state, and local CT liaison programs would build a more comprehensive framework that provides access to the full criminal histories of those who revert to violent extremism. The National Joint Terrorism Task Force Correction Intelligence Program can help improve and extend coordination, information sharing, and notifications—to include time of terrorist offender release—between corrections, probation and parole, and local jurisdictions. (JCAT)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

(U) Report Assesses Outcomes of Online Campaigns Countering Violent Extremism

(U) As of mid-December, the RAND Corporation released a case study assessing outcomes of online campaigns countering violent extremism, particularly the Redirect Method.

- (U) The Redirect Method campaign targets violent extremist content. The campaign consisted of two separate arms, one focused on targeting violent extremists and the other targeting violent far-right extremists. The primary goal of the intervention was to “prevent unobstructed access to extremist content.”
- (U) A limited evaluation of the Redirect Method process variables suggested the implementers were able to use advertisements linking to counterextremist videos to effectively expose individuals searching for violent jihadist or violent far-right content to content that offers alternative narratives. This partial evaluation, however, did not assess the impact of the video content on user attitudes or behavior.
- (U) The report recommended the Redirect Method consider more-tailored options. First, it can recruit former violent extremists to help assess whether Google Ads and video content is entertaining, accurate, and potentially persuasive. Second, it might be feasible to test the impact of the Redirect Method in a closed evaluation design, drawing on a specially recruited population of participants, which would prevent the provision of survey content to viewers of the live campaign. (RAND CORP.)

JCAT: (U) Terrorism prevention programs can be effective disruption tools if used at the appropriate time within the cycle of violence. In the US, Terrorism Prevention, previously known as Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary, proactive, approach against the many forms of terrorist ideology. It utilizes prevention, intervention, and disengagement efforts.

(U) The principles and strategies used in Terrorism Prevention are similar to those applied to community policing, counter-drug, and counter-gang initiatives. Public safety professionals from state, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies as well as private and public sector stakeholders are critical partners in preventing violence, because they usually have initial contact with individuals contemplating violence. Appropriate mental health and social service professionals can use a whole-person evaluation approach toward an individual who may be considering violent actions as a solution to his/her grievances. For additional information, refer to the First Responder’s Toolbox “Terrorism Prevention - A Form of Violence Reduction” (30 October 2017). This product can be found on the JCAT Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI’s Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN), and on the ODNI website <https://www.odni.gov/index.php/nctc-how-we-work/joint-ct-assessment-team/first-responder-toolbox>. (JCAT)

(U) Group Releases Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2018

(U) In mid-December, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) released the sixth edition of the GTI, which is a report that provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism over the past 20 years, covering 1998-2017.

- (U) According to the report, deaths from terrorism fell for the third consecutive year, after peaking in 2014. The total number of deaths fell by 27 percent between 2016 and 2017, with the largest falls occurring in Iraq and Syria.
- (U) Despite its reduced capacity, ISIS remained the deadliest terrorist group globally in 2017. The decline of ISIS has also been reflected in the level of terrorist activity in Europe, with the number of deaths falling by 75 percent, from 827 in 2016 to 204 in 2017. Preliminary data for 2018 suggested this trend will continue, as less than 10 deaths from terrorism have been recorded in Western Europe from January to October.

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

- (U) Although the total number of deaths from terrorism fell, the impact of terrorism remained widespread. In 2017, 67 countries experienced at least one death from terrorism, which was the second highest number of countries recording one death in the past 20 years; however, it was a fall from the peak of 79 countries in 2016.
- (U) Conflict remained the primary driver of terrorism in most countries throughout the world. The 10 countries with the highest impact of terrorism were all engaged in at least one conflict. ([IEP](#))

(U) Interpol Helps East African Countries Develop Tools to Track Returning Foreign Fighters

(U) In early December, police chiefs from Interpol and Eastern African countries met in Kampala, Uganda, to build a database to identify, profile, and disrupt terrorists entering the region after fighting in foreign countries such as Iraq and Syria. François Perrenoid, the head of Interpol East Africa, said Interpol has set up tools to track terrorist fighters and urged countries to use them.

- (U) The meeting was attended by police chiefs from 11 Eastern Africa countries and focused on border control challenges in the fight against terrorism in the eastern Africa region.
- (U) Perrenoid said, “We have foreign fighters’ analysis file and we have over 40,000 entries of possible terrorists. Uganda is one of the first countries in Africa to participate in these analytical database. There is also a blue (Interpol) notice for locating terrorists traveling.” Perrenoid said they are using the same tools to better understand the dangers al-Shabaab can develop outside Somalia.
- (U) The police chiefs planned to establish a database to track the financiers of terrorist groups in the region, where they acquire logistics, and how they can disrupt their propaganda machinery and network. ([DAILY MONITOR](#), [XINHUA](#))

(U) US Warns ISIS is Evolving Into Effective Clandestine Organization

(U) As of early December, the US Department of Defense (DOD) released a report that included a warning about ISIS returning to its insurgent roots and “re-emerging as a guerrilla force” despite its loss of territorial control.

- (U) In the place of what used to be a de-facto state, an “effective clandestine ISIS organization appears to be taking hold,” the report states.
- (U) Moreover, the group is “still well-funded” and its operations remain lethal, especially in Iraq, where it continues to undermine the government’s efforts to improve the country’s security.
- (U) In Syria, ISIS functions as a “hybrid organization” capable of fighting both as a conventional force and insurgents.
- (U) The report stated a lower-than-expected outflow of foreign ISIS fighters suggested many of them were hiding in sympathetic local communities in Iraq and Syria. ([DOD](#), [INTEL NEWS](#))

(U) UN Launches New Framework to Strengthen Fight Against Terrorism

(U) On 6 December, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched a new organization-wide framework to coordinate efforts to deal with international terrorism.

- (U) Termed the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the framework is an agreement between the UN chief, 36 Organizational entities, INTERPOL, and the World Customs Organization.
- (U) Guterres urged greater vigilance against the misuse of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, drones, and 3D printing, as well as against the use of hate-speech and distortion of religious beliefs by violent extremist and terrorist groups.
- (U) According to the UN Office of CT, the Coordination Committee will oversee the implementation of the Compact and monitor its implementation. It is chaired by UN Under-Secretary-General for CT, Vladimir Voronkov. ([UN](#))

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

(U) UK Authorities Release Update on Operation of Police Powers Under Terrorism Act of 2000

(U) On 6 December, UK authorities released a quarterly update on the use of police powers under the terrorism act of 2000 up to the end of September. The report also covered arrests for terrorist-related activity under other legislation. According to authorities, the statistics draw on a range of data sources.

- (U) The arrests and outcomes section of the quarterly update included statistics for Great Britain on the arrests for terrorist-related activity and outcomes; the legislation used to bring charges and convictions; gender, age, ethnicity, and nationality of those arrested, charged, and convicted; and the type of terrorism involvement of those arrested, charged, and convicted.
- (U) The court proceedings section included statistics for England and Wales only on the number of persons proceeded against by CPS for terrorism-related offenses; legislation under which individuals were prosecuted and convicted; and sentence length of those convicted for terrorism-related offenses.
- (U) The terrorist prisoners section included statistics for Great Britain on the number and ideology of individuals in custody for terrorism-related offenses; ethnicity, nationality, and religion of those in custody; and the number of persons released from custody by sentence length. ([UK GOV](#))

(U) Telegram Suspends Thousands of Violent Jihadist Accounts

(U) On 6 December, the Telegram messaging app suspended over 3,000 “terrorist” accounts. Telegram’s daily report on the “terrorist” accounts it blocks usually cites an average of 200-300 take-downs per day, but this rose to 507 on 5 December and significantly jumped to 3,276 on 6 December.

- (U) Telegram’s “ISIS Watch” initiative to block channels with “terrorist content” was launched in 2016 after the company came under pressure over the number of violent jihadists operating on its platform. The ISIS Watch channel provided daily and monthly totals for its account suspensions.
- (U) The Telegram cull followed a recent effort by ISIS to beef up its presence on the platform. ISIS operated a network of multiple channels and groups on Telegram under the “Nashir news agency” brand.
- (U) Since 12 November, Nashir started advertising a flurry of new Telegram groups to complement its already swelling number of channels, enhancing the overall number of ISIS outlets on the platform.
- (U) The measure of having dozens of mirror accounts, so far unique to ISIS, was designed to mitigate the impact of take-downs on the group’s media operation. So when 10 or 50 accounts are suspended, other duplicate accounts are still active.
- (U) In November 2017, Nashir claimed to be operating 600 duplicate channels and groups. While this might have been an exaggerated figure, the group indeed has dozens of active accounts on Telegram. ([BBC](#))

JCAT: (U//FOUO) The desire for and reliance on terrorists and their supporters to communicate electronically with like-minded individuals provides potential investigative avenues through human operations, outreach, and targeting analysis. While a subject’s communications can be anonymized or encrypted, often their participation in online forums, chat rooms, and initial contact with others may not be, providing a window for discovering trends and methods in terrorist COMSEC. (**JCAT**)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

(U) ISIS-Khorasan's Network and Organizational Capacity in Afghanistan and Pakistan

(U) In mid-December, the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at West Point released a report on various facets of ISIS-Khorasan's presence in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

- (U) According to the author, the report's findings demonstrate that ISIS-Khorasan has been successful in reinforcing its organizational capacity in both Afghanistan and Pakistan by fostering partnerships with regional violent extremist groups, and parallels in the nature and timing of the group's attacks in both countries indicate its activity is coordinated to a degree.
- (U) These findings suggest that ISIS-Khorasan's continued ability to leverage and make effective use of a lethal, cross-border, and resourceful network in the region will define the parameters of its future trajectory, according to the author. ([CTC WEST POINT](#))

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

3 **WORLDWIDE:** (U) ISIS Releases 19th 'Harvest of the Soldiers' Video

شباب الخلفة

VOICE OF THE YOUTH

مصلحة جميع المناصرين

مجلة غير رسمية تقوم
بنشر مشاركات الانصار
الواردة لها تحت إشراف
مؤسسة العهد الصغير،
مؤسسة الدرر السنن،
مؤسسة القصرى للعولم
أحرية ومؤسسة البتار

A SINGLE MUSAFIH
LOOK AT WHAT HE HAS DONE TO

SOON

EVEHICLE ATTACKS WILL BE WITHIN
YOUR STREETS. BY ALLIANCE PER

نشاهدون في هذا العدد:

- 1 الإصدار المزمع (وجاهدوا في الله
قد يهتدوا) مؤسسة البتار
- 2 مقالات متنوعة : (الأيام السود
والهجوم " التسللوا الدار هو ..
- 3 تعميم موعود من أرفها - أرفها
الموا - عليهم بقاء العلوي
- 4 صفحات بكتابة في المجلة مخصصة
للمشاركات غير الفورية) EN

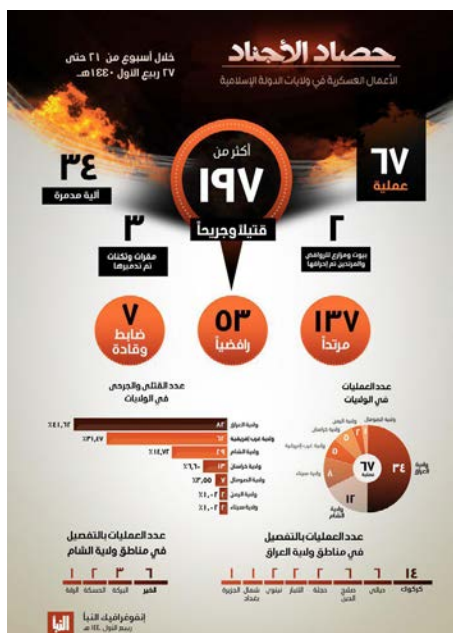
شباب الخلفة
العدد الثالث من مجلة شباب الخلفة
مكتبة رابحة هذه المجلة لعائلة

(U) On 6 December, al-Hayat media center released the 19th episode in the “Harvest of the Soldiers” series, which covered results from ISIS operations during the previous week (29 November-5 December). The three-minute, 13-second video alleged that ISIS fighters killed and wounded 197 enemies in 67 attacks throughout Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sinai, Somalia, and West Africa. **(AL-HAYAT)**



(U) On 6 December, ISIS published the 159th issue of *al-Naba*, which focused on the group's operations in several areas.

(AL-NABA)



4 **WORLDWIDE:** (U) ISIS Supporters Confirm Death of Religious Scholars

(U) On 6 December, pro-ISIS media outlet Mu'assasat al-Turath al-'Ilmi confirmed the death of two of its scholars, Abu Muhammad al-Masri and Abu Ya'qub al-Maqdisi.

5 WORLDWIDE: (U) ISIS Supporters Publish Second Issue of *Liwa Al-Ansar*

(U) On 3 December, ISIS supporters disseminated the second issue of the Arabic-language weekly publication *Liwa al-Ansar* on Telegram. *Liwa al-Ansar*, which relies on contributions from supporters, aimed to “educate” ISIS supporters. The issue defended the decision of ISIS leaders to declare a “caliphate” in 2014 and included an infographic promoting lone actor attacks. **(LIWA AL-ANSAR)**

PARTING SHOTS

6 GAZA: (U) Group Announces Donation Campaign to Fight Israeli Forces, HAMAS

(U) On 10 December, Gaza-based Pro-ISIS group Jaish al-Islam published a statement announcing a donation campaign to prepare for fighting the “Jews” (Israel Defense Forces) and the “Murtadin” (HAMAS). (JAISH AL-ISLAM)



(U) Jaish al-Islam statement (JAISH AL-ISLAM)



(U) Chabahar suicide bomber, Abdullah Azizi (ANSAR AL-FURQAN)

8 BURKINA FASO: (U) Police Kill Six Terrorists Who Attacked Security Patrol

(U) On 3 December, terrorists attacked a security patrol as it conducted an operation to dismantle a cache of weapons belonging to suspected terrorists near Bougui. Police fired at the attackers, killing six of them. One officer was injured in the attack. The patrol seized several weapons and ammunition from the deceased attackers. (AFP)

7 IRAN: (U) Ansar Al-Furqan Claims VBIED Attack Against Police Headquarters In Chabahar

(U) On 6 December, Ansar al-Furqan—a Sunni Balochistan-based violent jihadist group—claimed a VBIED attack against the police headquarters in Chabahar, which killed at least three people and wounded 48 others. The group released an official Arabic, English, and Persian claim via its official Telegram channel as well as a photo of the attacker, Abdullah Azizi. (ANSAR AL-FURQAN, REUTERS)



(U) Claim of responsibility (ANSAR AL-FURQAN)

9 EGYPT: (U) Armed Forces Ask Companies to Not Import Military-Like Clothing

(U) On 10 December, Egyptian armed forces call upon the owners of textile companies and factories not to import or manufacture fabrics and clothing similar to military clothing to prevent its use by terrorists and to not endanger national security. (EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES)

JCAT: (U) Impersonation—the use of military uniforms during overseas terrorist attacks—highlights the use of the tactic to maximize the success of a plot, potentially allowing terrorists to facilitate access to restricted or secure locations, and underscores the importance of the Egyptian military's partnership with private sector partners. The loss or theft of uniforms, credentials, or vehicles should be reported and may be an indicator of pre-operational attack planning. Effective reporting and dissemination of information about such loss/thefts may assist in mitigating the effectiveness of this tactic. (JCAT)

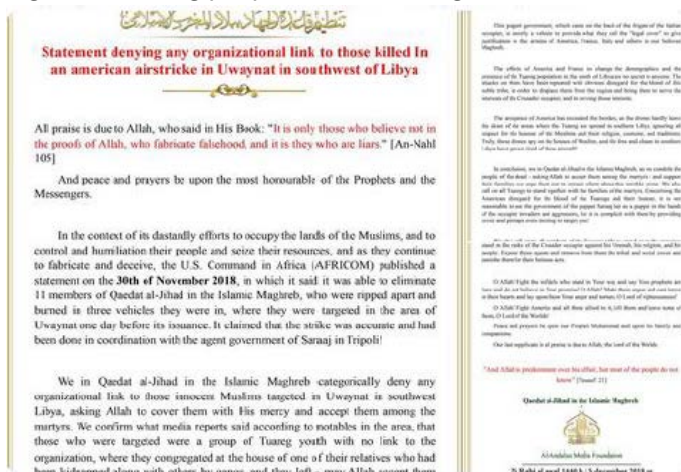
PARTING SHOTS

10 KENYA: (U) Authorities Warn of Possible Al-Shabaab Attacks During Holidays

(U) On 5 December, Northeastern Regional Commissioner Mohamed Birik met with chiefs and their assistants from Garissa County and urged all sub-county security teams to enhance surveillance during the Christmas and New Year festivities to prevent possible attacks by al-Shabaab. Birik said security agencies would be put on high alert and urged Kenyans to take cautionary measures and report any suspicious characters to relevant authorities. ([THE STAR](#))

11 LIBYA: (U) AQIM Denies Death of Members in US Airstrike, Claims US Killed Civilians

(U) On 5 December, AQIM's al-Andalus media foundation issued a statement denying that US AFRICOM airstrikes had killed 11 of its members in southwest Libya. The group claimed the airstrike killed Tuaregs not linked to AQIM, and urged the Tuareg people to seek revenge. ([AQIM](#))



(U) AQIM statement ([AL-ANDALUS](#))

12 NIGERIA: (U) ISIS-West Africa Attacks Military Base, Kills Eight Soldiers

(U) On 4 December, the Nigerian army confirmed eight soldiers were killed in a 1 December ISIS-West Africa attack on a military base in Buni Gari. The fighters destroyed an armored vehicle and stole a truck during the attack. Air support and reinforcements from a military base in the nearby town of Buni Yadi helped fend off the terrorists. ([AFP](#))

13 SOMALIA: (U) Security Forces Raid Al-Shabaab Checkpoints, Kill Several Fighters

(U) On 5 December, Somali officials stated troops raided two al-Shabaab checkpoints where the terrorists extort money from commercial vehicles, killing several fighters. Al-Shabaab regularly extorts businessmen and travelers to fund high-profile attacks. ([AP](#))

14 SOMALIA: (U) US Conducts Airstrikes Against Al-Shabaab, Kills Eight

(U) On 4 and 8 December, US forces—in support of the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts to degrade al-Shabaab—conducted airstrikes targeting the group. The airstrikes took place in the vicinity of Awdheegle and Basra, and killed at least eight al-Shabaab members. ([AFRICOM1](#), [AFRICOM2](#))

15 BANGLADESH: (U) Police Arrest Two Terrorists for Planning to Kill Script Writer

(U) On 11 December, the CT unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) members Md Emdadul Islam and Abu Bakar for allegedly plotting to kill a script writer of a Bangladeshi film. The suspects allegedly created a Telegram group to contact each other about the plot. ([DAILY STAR](#))

16 RUSSIA: (U) Moscow Court Sentences Two ISIS Members for Preparing Attacks

(U) On 6 December, the Moscow District Military Court sentenced two ISIS members to 17 and 18 years in a corrective labor colony, and one year of restricted freedom for preparing terrorist attacks in the Moscow region. The two members were detained in the fall of 2017, where authorities found two ready-to-use homemade explosive devices, two pistols, two grenades, and communication equipment. ([INTERFAX](#))



US 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.
