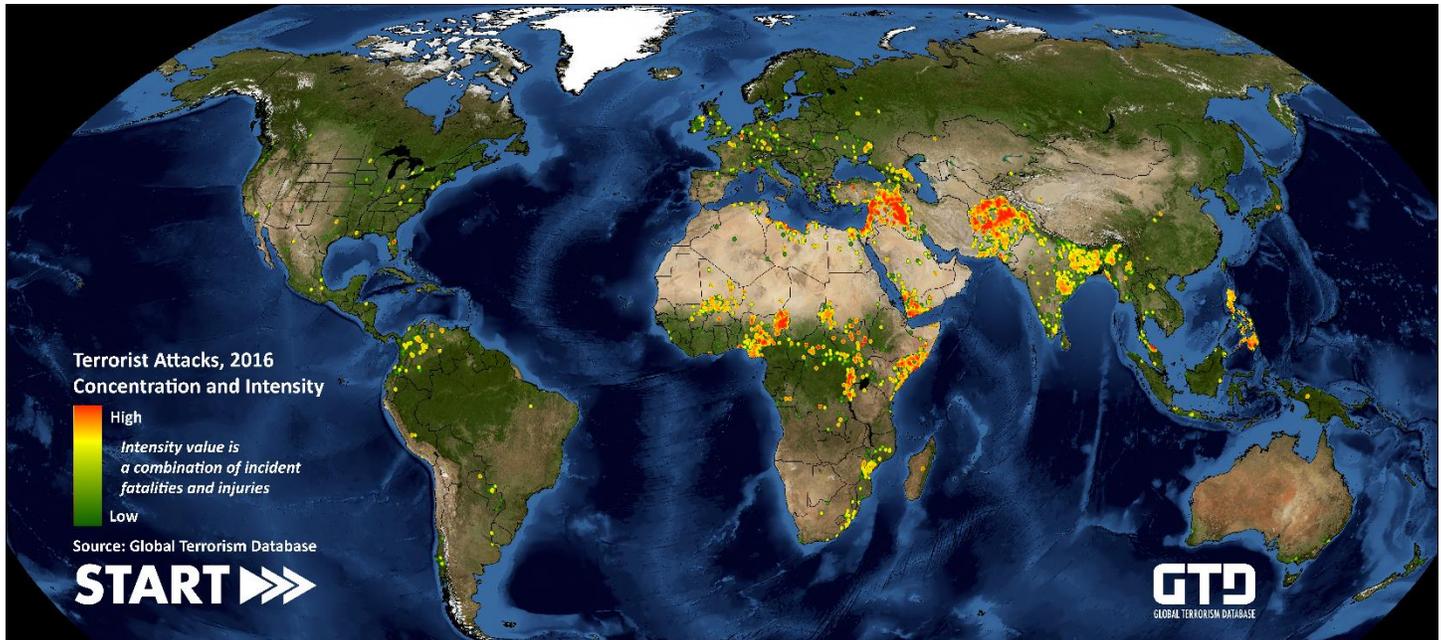


Overview: Terrorism in 2016



In 2016, more than 13,400 terrorist attacks took place around the world, resulting in more than 34,000 total deaths, including more than 11,600 perpetrator deaths. This represents a 9 percent decrease in the total number of terrorist attacks, and a 10 percent decrease in the total number of deaths, in comparison to 2015. Although terrorist attacks took place in 108 countries in 2016, they were heavily concentrated geographically. The vast majority of attacks (87%) and deaths (97%) occurred in the Middle East & North Africa, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Terrorism in 2016, by Region

Region	Total Attacks	% of Total	% Change from 2015	Total Deaths	% of Total	% Change from 2015
Middle East & North Africa	6088	45%	+2%	19121	55%	+8%
South Asia	3628	27%	-21%	7774	22%	-6%
Sub-Saharan Africa	2051	15%	+6%	6591	19%	-37%
Southeast Asia	1078	8%	+1%	635	2%	-2%
Western Europe	269	2%	-20%	238	1%	+39%
South America	133	1%	-24%	71	0%	-44%
Eastern Europe	132	1%	-81%	112	0%	-86%
North America	72	1%	+14%	73	0%	+38%
Central Asia	16	0%	+78%	20	0%	+54%
Australasia & Oceania	10	0%	-29%	0	0%	-100%
East Asia	8	0%	-71%	32	0%	-74%
Central America & Caribbean	3	0%	+200%	9	0%	-
Total	13488	100%	-9%	34676	100%	-10%

The following overview summarizes patterns of terrorism in key regions in 2016, focusing on trends over time, tactics, and perpetrators. First, however, we examine patterns of terrorist attacks carried out around the world by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as well as ISIL-affiliated and ISIL-inspired perpetrators.

ISLAMIC STATE-RELATED TERRORISM IN 2016

In 2016, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) remained the deadliest terrorist organization in the world, with its “core” operatives carrying out more than 1,400 attacks that resulted in more than 11,700 total deaths, including more than 4,400 perpetrator deaths. This represents a 19 percent increase in total attacks and a 39 percent increase in total deaths between 2015 and 2016. ISIL remained capable of gaining the allegiance of established and emerging perpetrator organizations around the world, and continued to inspire unaffiliated individual perpetrators who acted with little or no contact with ISIL operatives.

The analysis that follows draws from these classifications of ISIL-related terrorism:¹

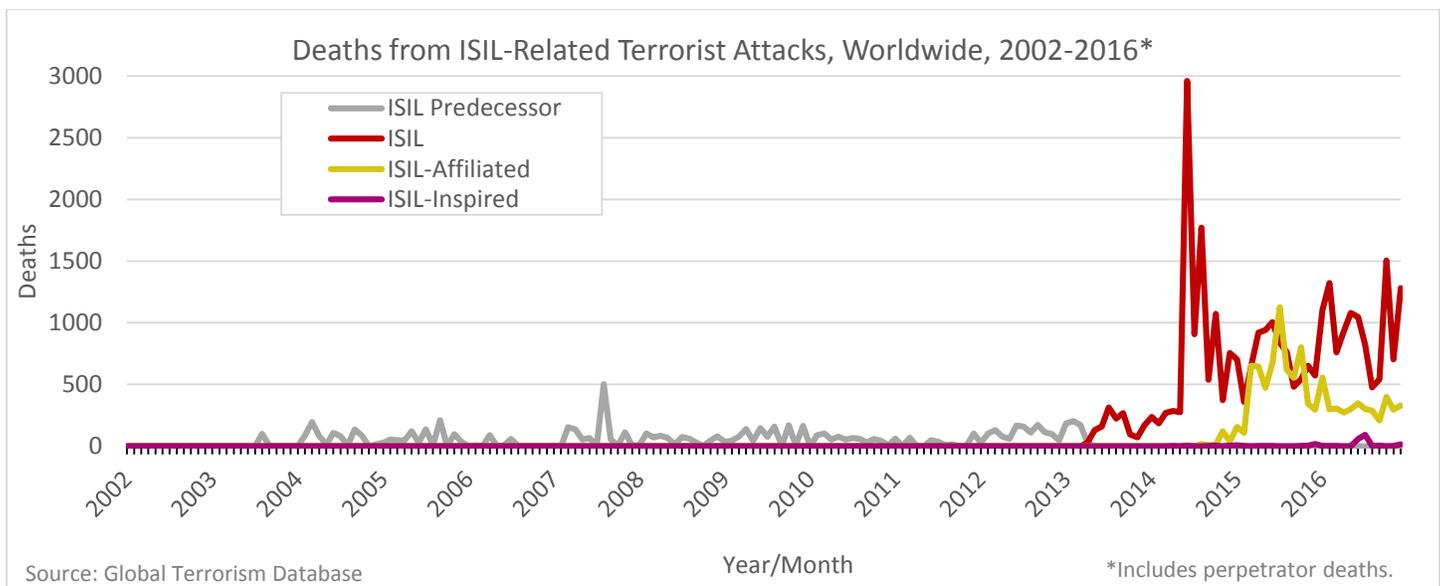
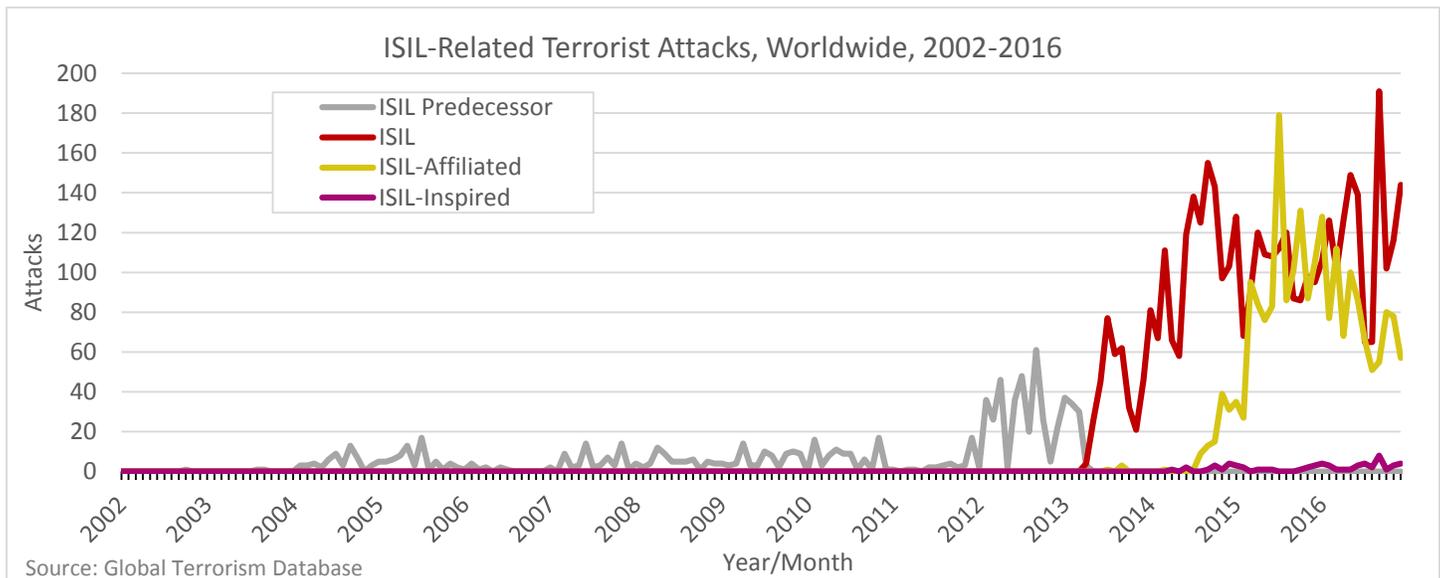
ISIL Predecessor: attacks by organizations that were part of the ISIL lineage prior to adoption of the ISIL name in 2013

ISIL: attacks by operatives of the “core” of the organization, based in and primarily active in Iraq and Syria

ISIL-Affiliated: attacks by organizations that have declared allegiance to ISIL

ISIL-Inspired: attacks by individuals who have indicated that they were motivated by allegiance to ISIL

ISIL-Related: any of the above



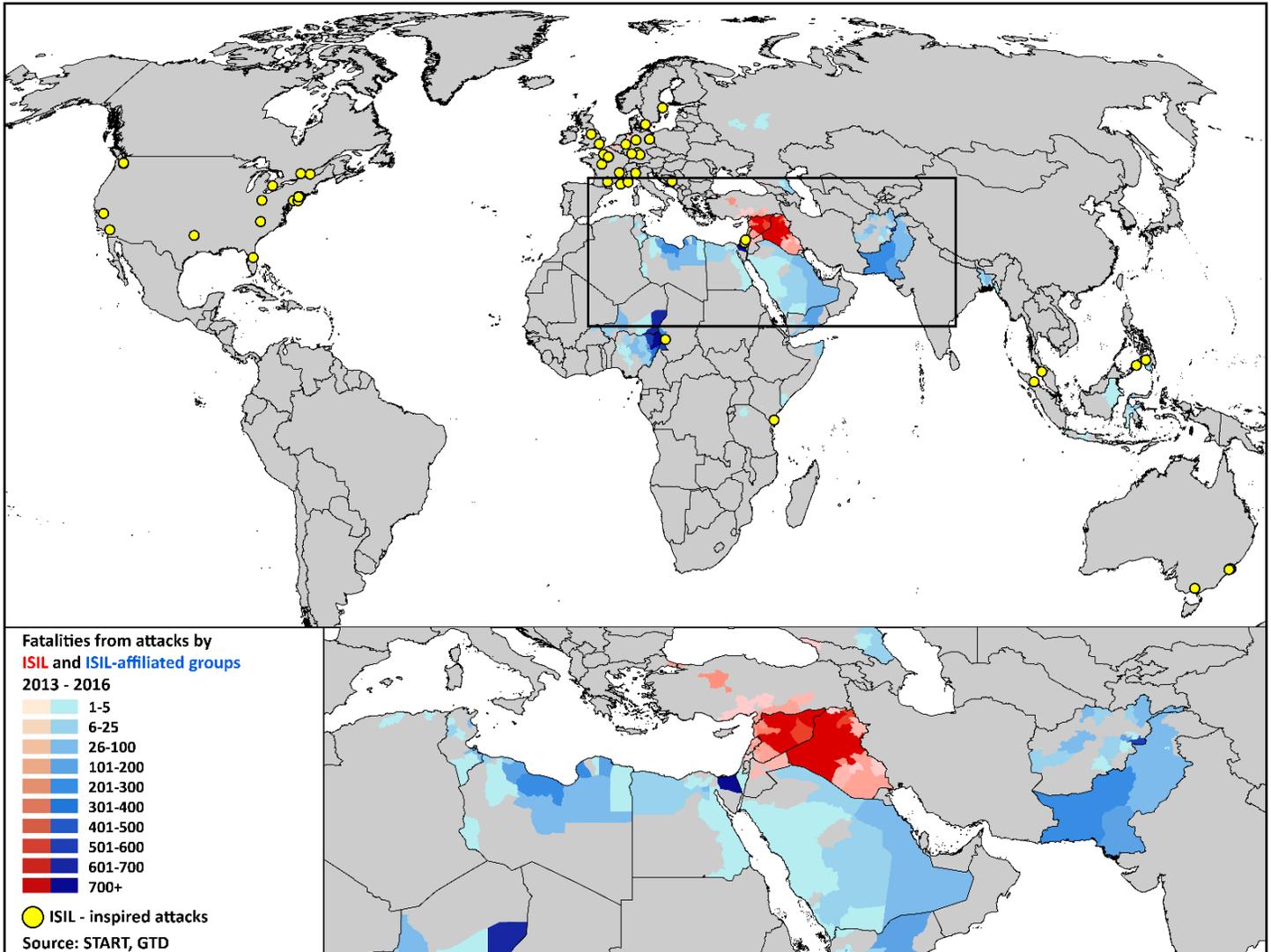
¹ Note: Information about the methodology of this classification and notable exceptions is available below in the “Addendum: Methodological Note on ISIL-Related Terrorism.” For more detailed analysis of ISIL-related terrorism see: Miller, Erin. 2016. “Patterns of Islamic State-Related Terrorism, 2002–2015,” START Background Report. College Park, MD. August. https://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/START_IslamicStateTerrorismPatterns_BackgroundReport_Aug2016.pdf
START Background Report © University of Maryland, August 2017

As illustrated in the graphs above, the number of terrorist attacks carried out by ISIL steadily increased since the group's expansion into Syria in mid-2013. While the total lethality of ISIL's attacks peaked dramatically in mid-2014 with several exceptionally deadly attacks, the total number of deaths resulting from ISIL-perpetrated attacks increased gradually throughout 2015 and 2016.

In contrast, the patterns of activity among ISIL-affiliated perpetrators are somewhat more complex. The trends shown in the graphs above indicate a sharp increase in the number of attacks and total deaths attributed to ISIL-affiliated perpetrators in early 2015. In mid-2015 and early 2016 terrorist violence carried out by ISIL affiliates was comparable to that of ISIL itself, if not more severe at times. The collective terrorist activity of ISIL-affiliated perpetrators gradually declined throughout the remainder of 2015 and 2016. However, note that the combined terrorist activity of ISIL-affiliated perpetrators reflects two different dynamics: 1) changes in the set of perpetrator groups that identify as affiliates of or pledge allegiance to the Islamic State, and 2) the frequency and deadliness of terrorist attacks conducted by these groups.

In particular, patterns of terrorist activity attributed to ISIL-affiliated perpetrator groups were heavily influenced by the 2015 declaration of allegiance by the leader of Boko Haram in Nigeria. In 2015 Boko Haram—a long-established and deadly organization in its own right—was responsible for more than one-third (36%) of all attacks by ISIL-affiliated perpetrators, and two-thirds (66%) of the resulting deaths. In 2016, the frequency of attacks carried out by Boko Haram declined 54 percent and the total number of deaths caused by Boko Haram's terrorist attacks decreased 77 percent. As a result of this decline, Boko Haram's terrorist activity in 2016 comprised one-quarter (25%) of attacks by ISIL-affiliated perpetrators and one-third (37%) of all deaths that resulted from these attacks. While still a significant driver of terrorist activity by ISIL-affiliated perpetrators, Boko Haram's influence declined as the number and geographic reach of other ISIL-affiliated perpetrator groups expanded.

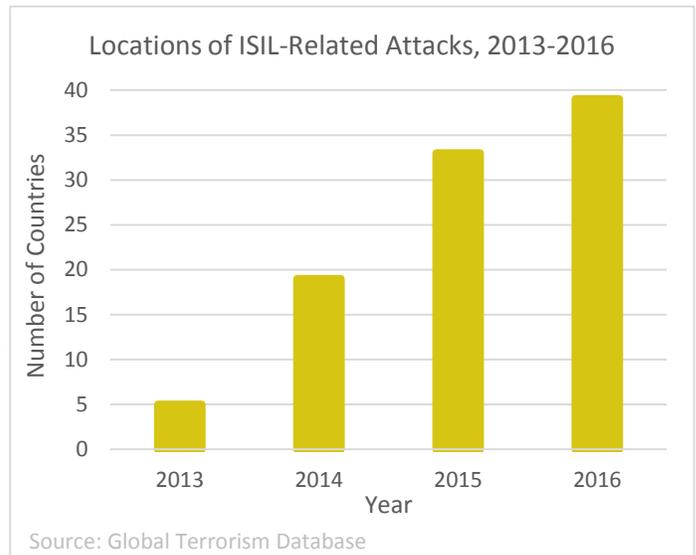
ISIL-Related Terrorism, 2013-2016



ISIL-related terrorist attacks took place in 42 countries between 2013 and 2016, including seven new countries in 2016: Georgia, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Sweden, and Tanzania. Attacks carried out by ISIL “core” operatives were concentrated primarily in Iraq and Syria in 2016, but also took place in Turkey (56 attacks), Lebanon (7), Jordan (5), Belgium (2), Georgia (1), Germany (1), and Malaysia (1). Attacks carried out by ISIL-affiliated perpetrator groups in 2016 took place primarily in the Middle East & North Africa (473), Sub-Saharan Africa (257), South Asia (134), and Southeast Asia (85).

The affiliates with the largest increases in terrorist violence between 2015 and 2016 included:

- **Adan-Abyan Province of the Islamic State in Yemen**
(175% increase in attacks; 948% increase in total deaths)
- **Islamic State in Bangladesh**
(62% increase in attacks; 513% increase in total deaths)
- **Khorasan Province of the Islamic State in Afghanistan/Pakistan**
(28% increase in attacks; 110% increase in total deaths)
- **Maute Group in the Philippines**
(22 attacks resulting in 33 total deaths in 2016, compared to one attack in 2015)
- **Tripoli Province of the Islamic State in Libya**
(30% increase in attacks; 80% increase in total deaths)

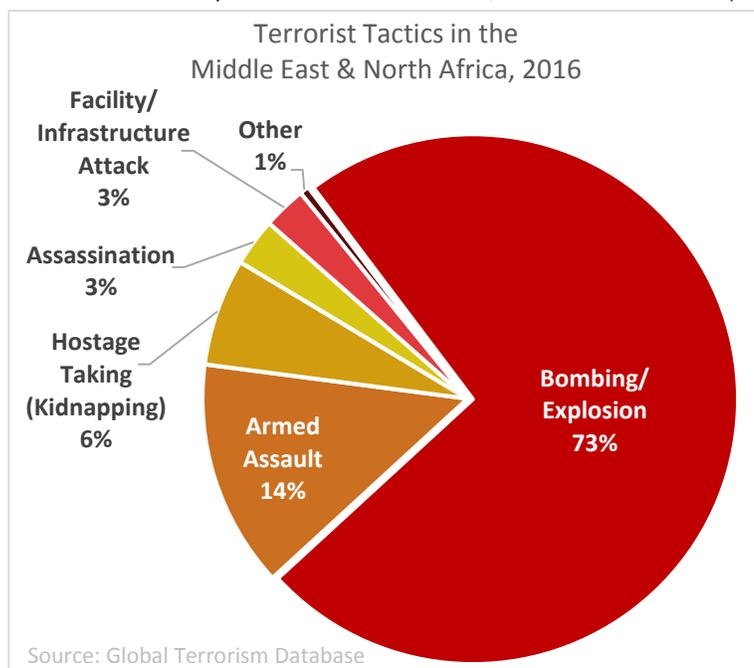


Terrorist attacks carried out by unaffiliated individuals who drew inspiration from ISIL comprised less than 2 percent of all ISIL-related attacks and resulting deaths in 2016. However, the number of ISIL-inspired attacks more than doubled, from 14 attacks across seven countries in 2015 to 35 attacks across 16 countries in 2016. Furthermore, the number of people killed in terrorist attacks carried out by ISIL-inspired individuals increased from 35 in 2015 to 172 in 2016. Unlike the attacks by ISIL and ISIL-affiliated perpetrator groups, attacks by ISIL-inspired individuals were concentrated in Western Europe (54 percent of all ISIL-inspired attacks; 65 percent of all deaths) and North America (23 percent of all ISIL-inspired attacks; 30 percent of all deaths).

TERRORISM IN 2016 BY REGION

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Since 2014, the Middle East & North Africa region has experienced more terrorist violence than any other region. Although terrorism declined worldwide between 2015 and 2016, attacks in this region increased 2 percent to more than 6,000 and total deaths increased 8 percent to more than 19,100. More than half (55%) of all terrorist attacks in the Middle East & North Africa



in 2016 took place in Iraq, which saw a 22 percent increase in terrorist attacks since 2015. Likewise, total deaths due to terrorist attacks in Iraq increased 38 percent from 2015 to 2016, comprising nearly two-thirds (64%) of all deaths from terrorist attacks in the Middle East & North Africa in 2016. While terrorism in Turkey also increased between 2015 and 2016, Yemen, Syria, Libya, Egypt, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip were among those locations that experienced fewer attacks and total deaths during this period.

Ten of the 11 deadliest terrorist attacks in 2016 took place in the Middle East & North Africa, including nine in Iraq and one in Syria. Each of these attacks was carried out by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and the number of victims killed ranged from nearly 100 to more than 380. Three of these exceptionally deadly terrorist attacks were bombings, including the deadliest attack in 2016, in which a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at a shopping center in the Karada neighborhood of Baghdad in July, killing at least 382 people and wounding 200 others. Eight of the exceptionally deadly attacks in 2016 were kidnapping

events in which ISIL abducted and executed scores, if not hundreds, of civilians, including activists, former police officers, and women who reportedly refused to marry ISIL fighters. The attack in Syria involved both explosives and kidnapping tactics.

Overall, 127 of the 6,088 attacks in the Middle East & North Africa in 2016 involved more than one type of tactic. Bombings were by far the most common tactic, representing nearly three-quarters of all observed tactics, followed by armed assaults at 14 percent, kidnappings at 6 percent, and assassinations and facility/infrastructure attacks at 3 percent each. Unarmed assaults, barricade hostage incidents, and hijackings comprised less than 1 percent of all tactics.

SOUTH ASIA

The number of terrorist attacks in South Asia declined 21 percent in 2016, while the number of people killed declined 6 percent. The frequency of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan and Bangladesh increased between 2012 and 2015 before declining in 2016.² However, terrorist violence in Pakistan declined sharply between 2014 and 2016, and both attacks and fatalities in India have increased steadily during the same period. In fact, in 2016 these diverging trends led to the number of terrorist attacks in India (1,019) surpassing the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan (861). Terrorism in Pakistan in 2016 remained considerably more deadly, however, resulting in more than 1,100 total deaths compared to more than 400 deaths due to terrorism in India.

Change in Number and Lethality of Terrorist Attacks in South Asia by Target, 2015 to 2016

Target Type	Attacks		Total Deaths	
Private Citizens & Property	874	+4%	2158	+38%
Police	811	-26%	2228	-23%
Military	543	-8%	2058	-3%
Government (General)	311	-33%	533	-22%
Business	165	-42%	86	-59%
Educational Institution	117	-30%	72	+41%
Transportation	86	-50%	41	-69%
Religious Figures/Institutions	85	-34%	213	0%
Terrorists/Non-State Militia	54	-11%	105	-37%
Violent Political Party	48	-62%	34	-50%
Journalists & Media	38	-24%	23	+44%
Telecommunication	29	-19%	0	-100%
Utilities	28	-63%	0	-100%

Source: Global Terrorism Database

Although patterns of terrorism varied from place to place, the decrease in the number of terrorist attacks in South Asia between 2015 and 2016 affected nearly all of the most commonly³ targeted entities to varying degrees, with one exception. Targets classified as private citizens & property were attacked 4 percent more frequently in 2016 than 2015, a result of trends in Afghanistan and India. Furthermore, attacks targeting private citizens and property resulted in 38 percent more deaths in 2016 compared to 2015, across nearly all South Asian countries.

Terrorist attacks against two other types of targets in South Asia also became deadlier in spite of declining frequency: journalists & media (+44% primarily due to increases in the lethality of attacks against these targets in Afghanistan), and educational institutions (+41% primarily due to increases in the lethality of attacks against these targets in Pakistan). Attacks on telecommunications and utilities targets—which are typically intended to cause property damage and disruption of services rather than loss of life—were non-lethal in 2016.

² The pattern of terrorist activity in Afghanistan in 2016 marks the first year in recent history that we do not observe a distinct “fighting season” of heightened violence during the spring. The implications of this development are discussed in greater detail elsewhere:

Koven, Barnett. 2017. "The End of Afghanistan's Spring Fighting Seasons and the Demise of the Afghan National Security Forces?," *Small Wars Journal* <http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/the-end-of-afghanistan%E2%80%99s-spring-fighting-seasons-and-the-demise-of-the-afghan-national-secu>

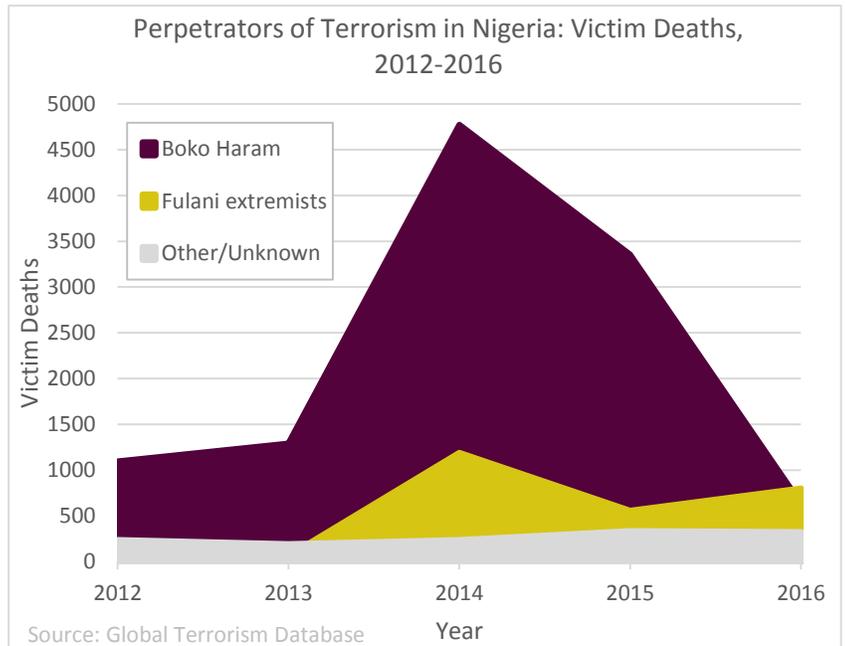
³ Including all types of targets that were attacked more than 20 times in both 2015 and 2016.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

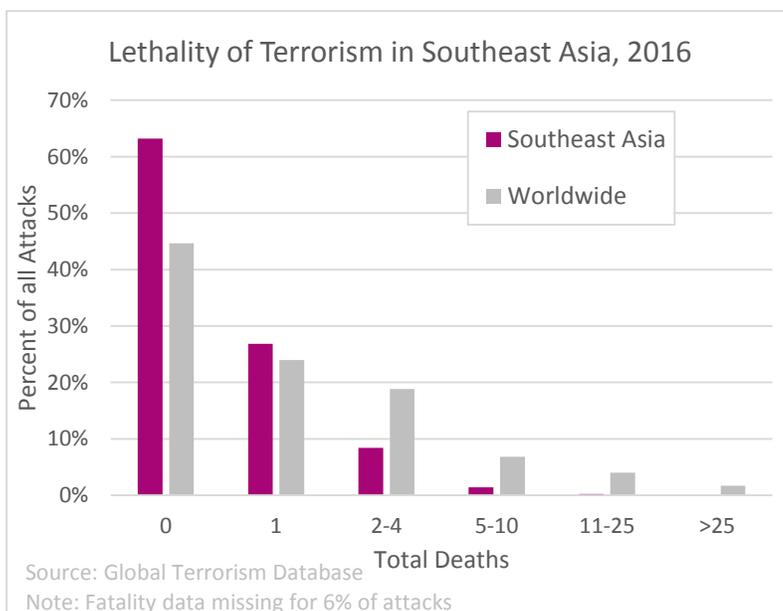
The number of terrorist attacks in Sub-Saharan Africa increased slightly (6%) in 2016, compared to 2015. However, the total number of deaths that resulted from terrorist attacks in this region declined 37 percent. This marks a continuation of the decline in overall lethality of terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa that has occurred since 2014, when the total number of deaths increased 247 percent from 3,842 in 2013 to 13,341 in 2014. This pattern was primarily a result of extreme increases in terrorist violence in Nigeria, including sharp increases in both victim and perpetrator deaths that resulted from (often coordinated) mass-casualty attacks carried out by Boko Haram.

In 2016, two countries—Nigeria and Somalia—experienced the majority of terrorist violence in Sub-Saharan Africa, with 55 percent of all attacks and 56 percent of all deaths. The geographic concentration of terrorism in these two countries is longstanding, but it has consistently declined since 2012 as other regional conflicts intensified in countries including Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Mozambique, and Sudan. At the same time, attacks carried out by Boko Haram decreased in Nigeria and expanded into Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, while al-Shabaab’s terrorist activity outside of Somalia also increased, particularly in Kenya.

Although Somalia surpassed Nigeria as the country in the region with the most attacks in 2016, terrorism in Nigeria remained especially deadly. More than 2,100 people were killed in terrorist attacks in Nigeria in 2016, including more than 400 perpetrators. However, the intensity of conflicts in Nigeria have shifted such that attacks by Fulani extremists—who are engaged in a land resource conflict in eastern Nigeria—resulted in more victim deaths in 2016 than attacks carried out by Boko Haram.



SOUTHEAST ASIA



Terrorism in Southeast Asia was remarkably stable between 2013 and 2016, and less lethal in comparison to the regions discussed above. In 2016 terrorist violence in Southeast Asia comprised 8 percent of all attacks worldwide, but 2 percent of all deaths that occurred worldwide. The average number of victims killed in terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia in 2016 was 0.5—or approximately one death for every two attacks that occurred in the region. This is far lower than the global average of 1.71 deaths per attack. In fact, the only regions that observed lower average lethality of terrorist attacks in 2016 were Eastern Europe, which saw one death for every three attacks, and Australasia and Oceania where no deaths resulted from terrorist attacks in 2016.

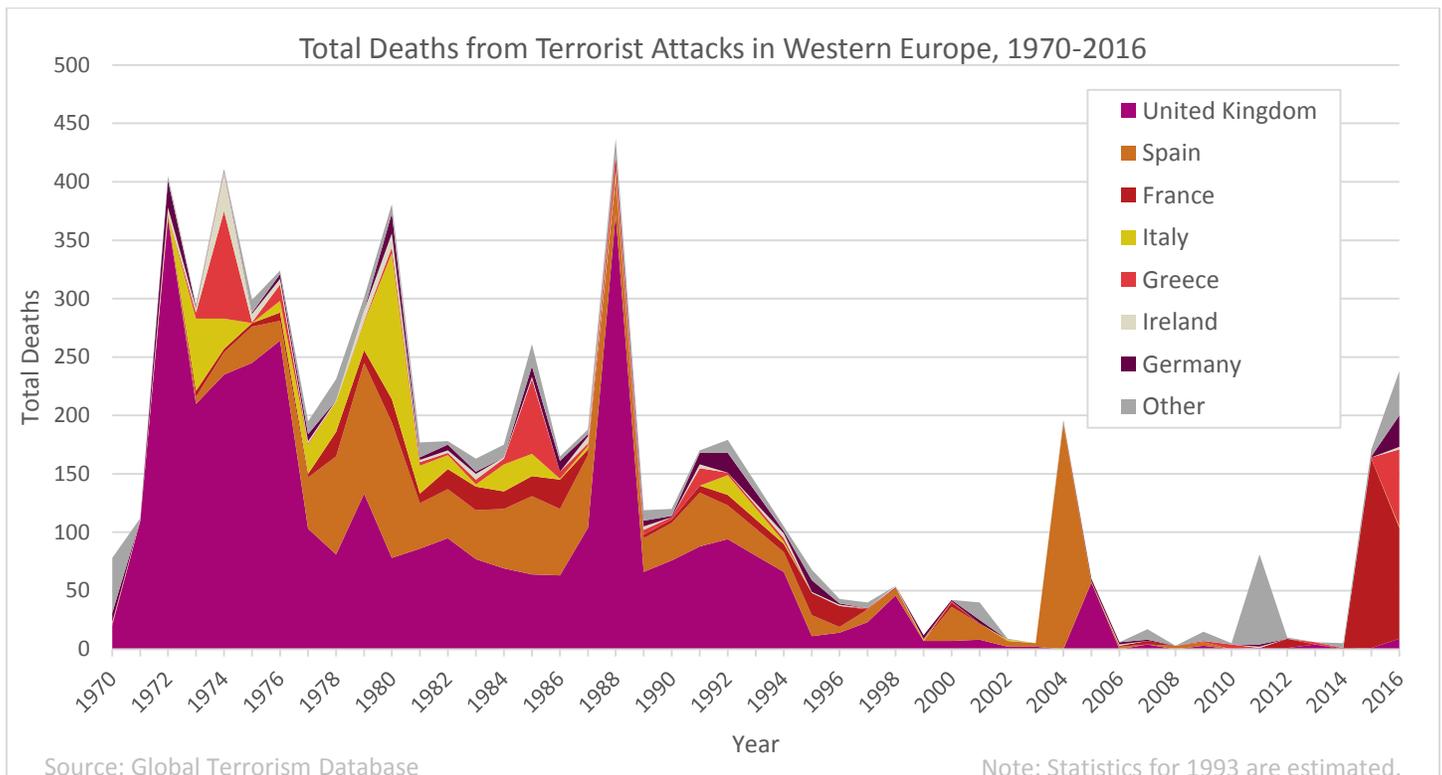
There were several factors contributing to the lower lethality of terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia, compared to other regions of the world. There were no terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia that resulted in more than 25 total fatalities in 2016. In comparison, 2

percent of attacks worldwide (more than 200 attacks in 2016) caused more than 25 fatalities. In addition, terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia were disproportionately likely to be non-lethal (63 percent of all attacks in 2016, compared to 45 percent globally). Terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia were slightly more likely to kill a single person (27 percent of all attacks in 2016, compared to 24 percent worldwide).

This pattern is reflected in the prevalence of targeted assassinations as a tactic in the region. In 2016 assassinations comprised 16 percent of all terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia, compared to 6 percent globally. The vast majority (87%) of the assassinations in Southeast Asia in 2016 took place in the Philippines. Three-quarters (76%) of the assassinations in the Philippines targeted government personnel, 14 percent targeted private citizens, 4 percent targeted journalists and media figures, and 3 percent targeted police personnel. All other types of targets each comprised less than 1 percent of these attacks.

WESTERN EUROPE

Terrorism in Western Europe continued to comprise a very small proportion of global terrorism in 2016—2 percent of all attacks, and less than 1 percent of all deaths that resulted from terrorist attacks around the world. While the number of terrorist attacks in Western Europe declined 20 percent in 2016, compared to 2015, total fatalities increased 39 percent during the same period. Furthermore, Western Europe experienced a sharp increase in terrorist violence in 2015, with a series of violent, coordinated attacks carried out by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Paris that resulted in more than 130 deaths and more than 400 injuries. In 2016, this trend continued with mass casualty attacks carried out by ISIL operatives or ISIL-inspired individuals in Nice, Brussels, and Berlin.

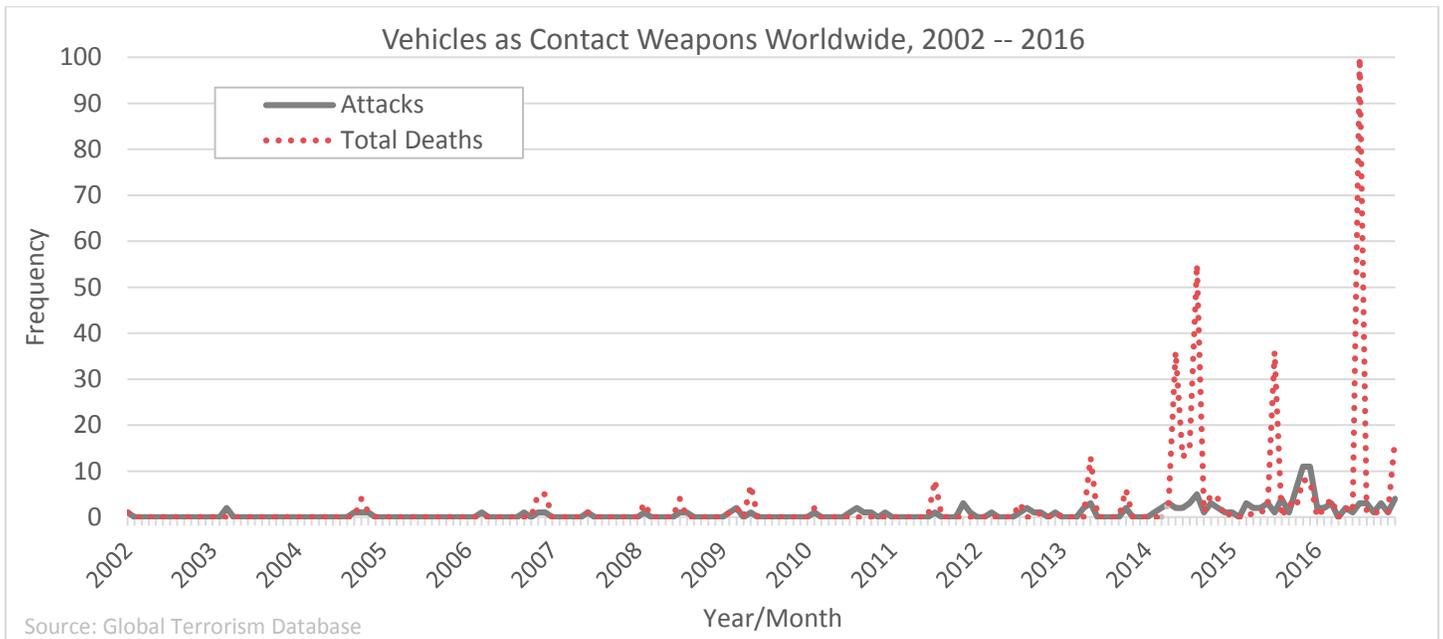


In addition, EgyptAir flight 804 from Paris to Cairo crashed into the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Greece in May 2016 killing all 66 people on board. Although investigators have not confirmed the cause of the crash, French and Egyptian investigators both reportedly found traces of explosives in the wreckage, and United States officials initially indicated a strong suspicion of terrorist involvement. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, and investigators have not ruled out the possibility of an accident, technical failure, or other cause.⁴

These and other lethal attacks in Western Europe in 2016 collectively resulted in 238 total deaths, including 14 perpetrator deaths, making 2016 the deadliest year with respect to terrorist attacks since 1988, when Pan American flight 103 crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland after an explosive device detonated on board. A total of 270 people were killed in this attack, in addition to 167 people killed by terrorist attacks elsewhere in Western Europe that year.

Several terrorist attacks in Western Europe in 2016, including two of the mass-casualty ISIL-related attacks in France and Germany, involved vehicles used as contact weapons (rather than as vehicle-borne IEDs). Although this tactic is not unprecedented, there has been a marked increase in the frequency and lethality of these attacks.

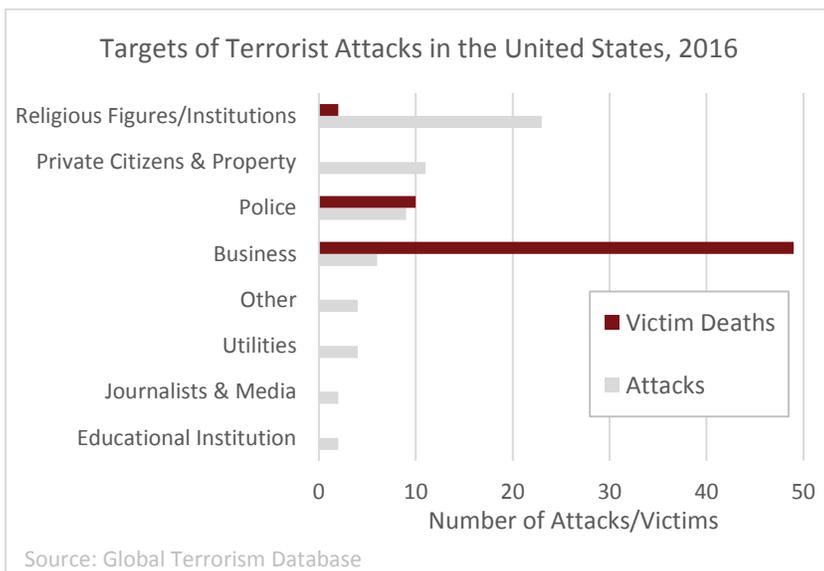
⁴ Due to conflicting information, this attack is classified as “doubt terrorism proper” in the Global Terrorism Database.



The graph above indicates that since 2001—when al-Qaida operatives used vehicles as contact weapons in an extraordinary way in the September 11 attacks in the United States—the use of vehicles as contact weapons was initially relatively rare, and typically resulted in fewer than 10 total deaths. Both the frequency and the lethality of this tactic began to increase in 2013 and 2014 with terrorist attacks in the Middle East, East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, North America, and Eastern and Western Europe. One attack in the United Kingdom involved two assailants who hit Lee Rigby, an off-duty soldier, with their car and subsequently murdered him using machetes. The exact implications of this tactic are not immediately clear due to the fact that 81 of the 183 attacks that involved vehicles as contact weapons between 1970 and 2016 (44%) also involved other types of weapons. These most frequently included firearms, incendiaries, and explosives. In some cases, the vehicle was primarily used to cause property damage or breach security.

NORTH AMERICA

In 2016 the number of terrorist attacks in North America increased 14 percent and total fatalities increased 38 percent, compared to 2015. There were six terrorist attacks in Canada, resulting in the death of one assailant and no victims. Five terrorist attacks took place in Mexico, resulting in the deaths of four victims. The majority of the terrorism in North America took place in the United States, where 61 attacks occurred resulting in the deaths of 61 victims and seven perpetrators.



The majority (85%) of the terrorist attacks that took place in the United States in 2016 were non-lethal, and in three additional attacks, the only people killed were the assailants. A total of 61 victims were killed in attacks that took place in Orlando (49), Dallas (5), Baton Rouge (3), New York City (2), Philadelphia (1), and Bristol (1).

Religious figures and institutions were most frequently targeted in terrorist attacks in the United States in 2016. These attacks mainly involved churches, mosques, and synagogues, typically using incendiary weapons. The homes of two rabbis were targeted in related attacks on the same night, but no damage or casualties were reported. The only fatal attack targeting religious figures or institutions in 2016 took place in New York City, where an imam and his assistant were shot and killed.⁵

⁵ Due to conflicting information about motive, this event is classified as “Doubt Terrorism Proper” in the Global Terrorism Database.

Nine attacks targeted police in the United States in 2016, four of which resulted in the deaths of nine police officers and one bystander. The assailants in these cases were not affiliated with formal perpetrator organizations, but espoused racist (anti-white), anti-police, or jihad-inspired motivations.

Finally, the deadliest attack in the United States since September 11, 2001 took place in June 2016, when an assailant armed with an assault rifle and a handgun opened fire at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The assailant then held a number of people hostage inside the nightclub for three hours. Forty-nine people were killed and more than 50 people were injured before law enforcement officers shot and killed the assailant, identified as Omar Mateen. During the course of the attack, Mateen pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and indicated that he carried out the attack in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

ADDENDUM: METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON ISIL-RELATED TERRORISM

Adapted and updated from full report on ISIL-related terrorism:

For each attack included in the GTD, researchers review supporting source materials and record the name of the perpetrator group responsible for the attack. In doing so, GTD staff retain as much specificity as possible, while adopting a canonical naming convention for each group. If sources identify one or more individual perpetrators not formally affiliated with a group or organization, GTD staff classify the perpetrator(s) as “unaffiliated individual(s)” and, when possible, record the ideological motivation of the assailants. As an event-level database, the GTD does not systematically record information about the relationships or allegiances between groups. In order to produce this report, we conducted supplemental analysis to comprehensively classify perpetrator groups as predecessors of ISIL or affiliates of ISIL, and to identify unaffiliated individual perpetrators who were reportedly inspired by ISIL. The resulting auxiliary dataset is available on [START's Dataverse page](#), and can be merged into the June 2017 release of the GTD using the *eventid* variable.

Several noteworthy challenges arose during the process of classifying perpetrator groups as ISIL predecessors or affiliates. Perhaps the most significant challenge is the fact that links between these groups exist on a continuum ranging from formally established, operational coordination and cooperation to more abstract, ideological support. Further complicating matters is the fact that often little detail about the exact nature of these relationships is available in open source materials, and the terminology used by both the media and the group leaders is extremely imprecise. Terms such as “link,” “allegiance,” “alliance,” “support,” “loyalty,” and “endorse” are used interchangeably. Among the more poetically phrased announcements is that of the Pakistani group Tehrik-e-Khilafat, whose statement read, “From today, Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi shall consider [Tehrik-e-Khilafat] and Jihad mujahideen fighters of Pakistan as one of the arrows among his arrows which he has kept for his bow.”⁶ Furthermore, in some cases ISIL leadership have acknowledged declarations of allegiance, and in other cases they have not. Finally, these relationships can be fluid, strengthening and weakening over time. For example, given the complex progression of the relationship between al-Nusrah Front and the Islamic State, we classified al-Nusrah Front as an ISIL predecessor group *prior* to its split from the newly branded ISIL. We classified attacks carried out by al-Nusrah Front after this point as not ISIL-related. The other ISIL predecessor groups are: Tawhid and Jihad, al-Qaida in Iraq, Mujahideen Shura Council, and the Islamic State of Iraq.

We began identifying ISIL affiliates by including all organizations identified as an Islamic State *wilayat* or “province” and that include this identity in their names. We identified 20 such organizations named as perpetrators in the GTD, including Boko Haram, which ostensibly adopted the name “Islamic State West Africa Province” upon declaring allegiance to ISIL. However, this name has not been widely adopted in favor of “Boko Haram.”

We then conducted an exhaustive search of open source materials to identify other organizations that made specific statements indicating that they act in support of the Islamic State and al-Baghdadi. Through this process we identified 15 additional ISIL-affiliated perpetrator organizations. In certain cases, source materials indicated that elements of a group had declared allegiance to ISIL, but that this sentiment was not widely shared among all members. For example, we did not include the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in the Philippines among ISIL affiliates, despite the fact that ASG leaders announced allegiance to ISIL around the same time BIFM leaders did. Subsequent reports indicated that certain ASG battalions may have actually defected from ASG to join ISIL.⁷ Likewise, although reports indicate that some al-Shabaab members have pledged allegiance to ISIL, this is certainly a source of division within al-Shabaab and is characterized as defection rather than shifting allegiance of the group itself.⁸ The table below lists all organizations we classified as ISIL affiliates.

⁶ Crilly, R. and Mehsud, S. (2014, July 9). Pakistani terror group swears allegiance to Islamic State. Retrieved from <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/pakistan/10955563/Pakistani-terror-group-swears-allegiance-to-Islamic-State.html>

⁷ Weiss, C. (2016, March 22). Abu Sayyaf Group battalion defects to Islamic State. Retrieved from <http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/03/abu-sayyaf-group-battalion-defects-to-islamic-state.php>

⁸ Shabelle News. (2016, April 9). A new Al Shabaab group pledges allegiance to ISIL. Retrieved from <http://www.shabellenews.com/2016/04/a-new-al-shabaab-group-pledges-allegiance-to-isil>

Adan-Abyan Province of the Islamic State
Ahfad al-Sahaba-Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis
Algeria Province of the Islamic State
Ansar Al-Khilafa (Philippines)
Bahrain Province of the Islamic State
Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM)
Barqa Province of the Islamic State
Boko Haram
Caucasus Province of the Islamic State
Fezzan Province of the Islamic State
Hadramawt Province of the Islamic State
Hijaz Province of the Islamic State
Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
Islamic State in Bangladesh
Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS)
Jabha East Africa
Jamaah Ansharut Daulah
Jund al-Khilafa (Algeria)

Jund al-Khilafah (Tunisia)
Jundallah
Jundul Khilafah (Philippines)
Khorasan Chapter of the Islamic State
Lahij Province of the Islamic State
Maute Group
Mujahidin Indonesia Timur (MIT)
Najd Province of the Islamic State
Okba Ibn Nafaa Brigade
Sanaa Province of the Islamic State
Shabwah Province of the Islamic State
Sheikh Omar Hadid Brigade
Sinai Province of the Islamic State
Supporters of the Islamic State in Jerusalem
Supporters of the Islamic State in the Land of the
Two Holy Mosques
Tehrik-e-Khilafat
Tripoli Province of the Islamic State

In 32 cases source materials attributed responsibility for an attack to ISIL generically in locations and time periods where there was more than one ISIL affiliate known to be active or where an ISIL affiliated group would formally emerge shortly thereafter. Due to lack of information about which specific organization or emerging affiliate was implicated in the attack the perpetrator of record in the GTD was ISIL “core.” However, unless sources specifically indicated that these attacks were carried out by “core” ISIL operatives, we classified them as attacks by ISIL affiliated perpetrators for the purpose of this analysis.

The GTD includes information about the motive of each attack, as reported in source materials. To identify the attacks that were carried out by perpetrators inspired by, but not directly linked to ISIL, we reviewed the event summaries and motives fields for references to ISIL. We then sought out additional information about attack motives for those events attributed to unaffiliated individuals or Muslim extremists. In order to classify an attack as ISIL-inspired, we relied on statements made by the perpetrator(s) or other direct evidence (e.g., journals, social media messaging). In four cases, ISIL-inspired attacks were claimed by organizations (al-Shabaab, Hamas, Jund Ansar Allah and Kilafah Islamic Movement) rather than unaffiliated individuals. Although these organizations had not explicitly declared allegiance to ISIL, sources indicated that the attacks were inspired by ISIL.

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The data presented here are drawn from START’s Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and reports from news media. The GTD contains information on more than 170,000 terrorist attacks that occurred around the world since 1970. For more information about the GTD, visit www.start.umd.edu/gtd.



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