

1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

Anthony H. Cordesman
Phone: 1.202.775.3270

Email: acordesman@gmail.com

Web version:
www.csis.org/burke/reports

Key Trends in the Metrics of Terrorism

Anthony H. Cordesman
acordesman@gmail.com

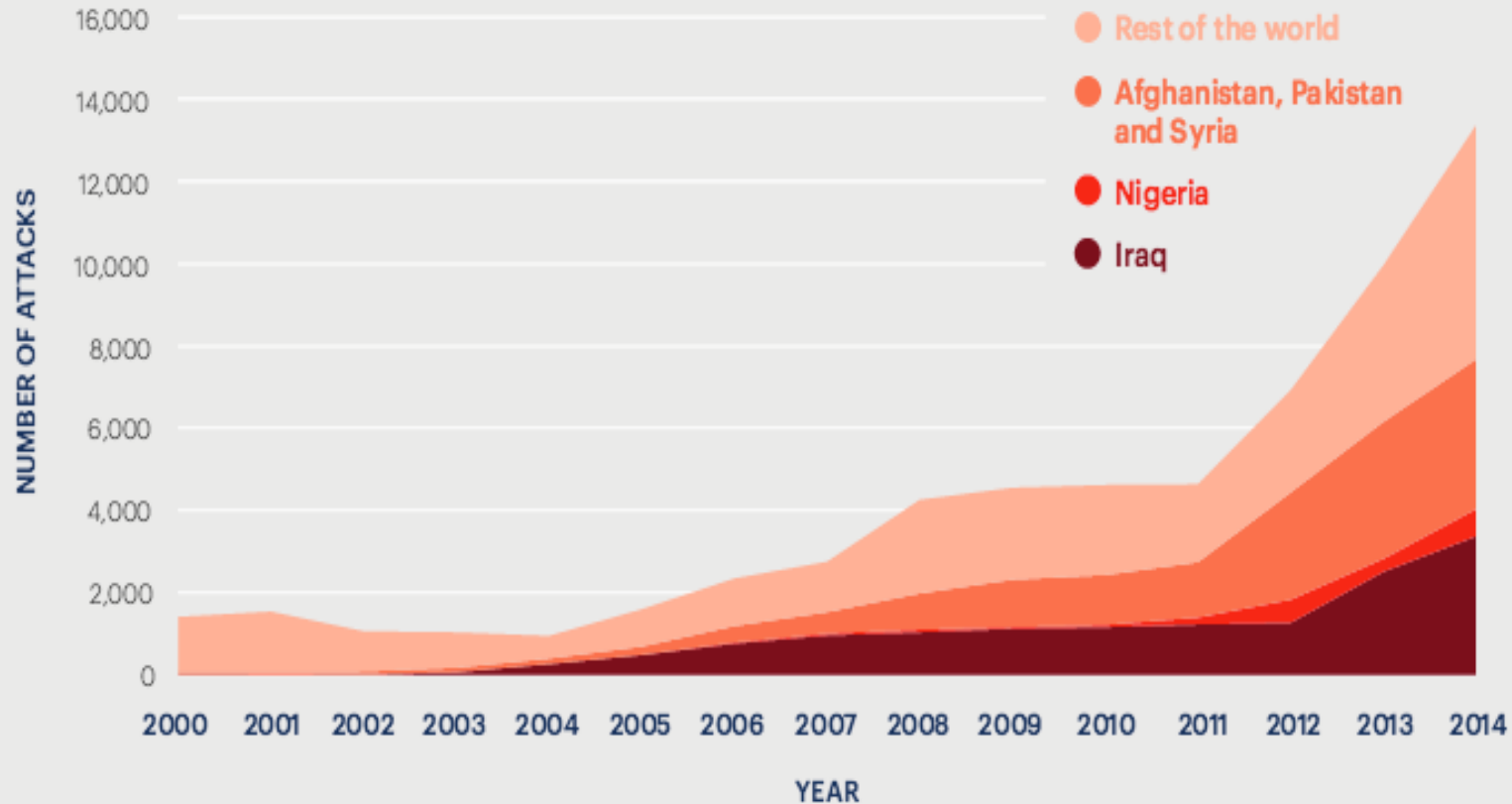
Burke Chair
In Strategy

Revised
December 17,
2015

Global Patterns of Attack

Terrorist Attacks: 2000-2014

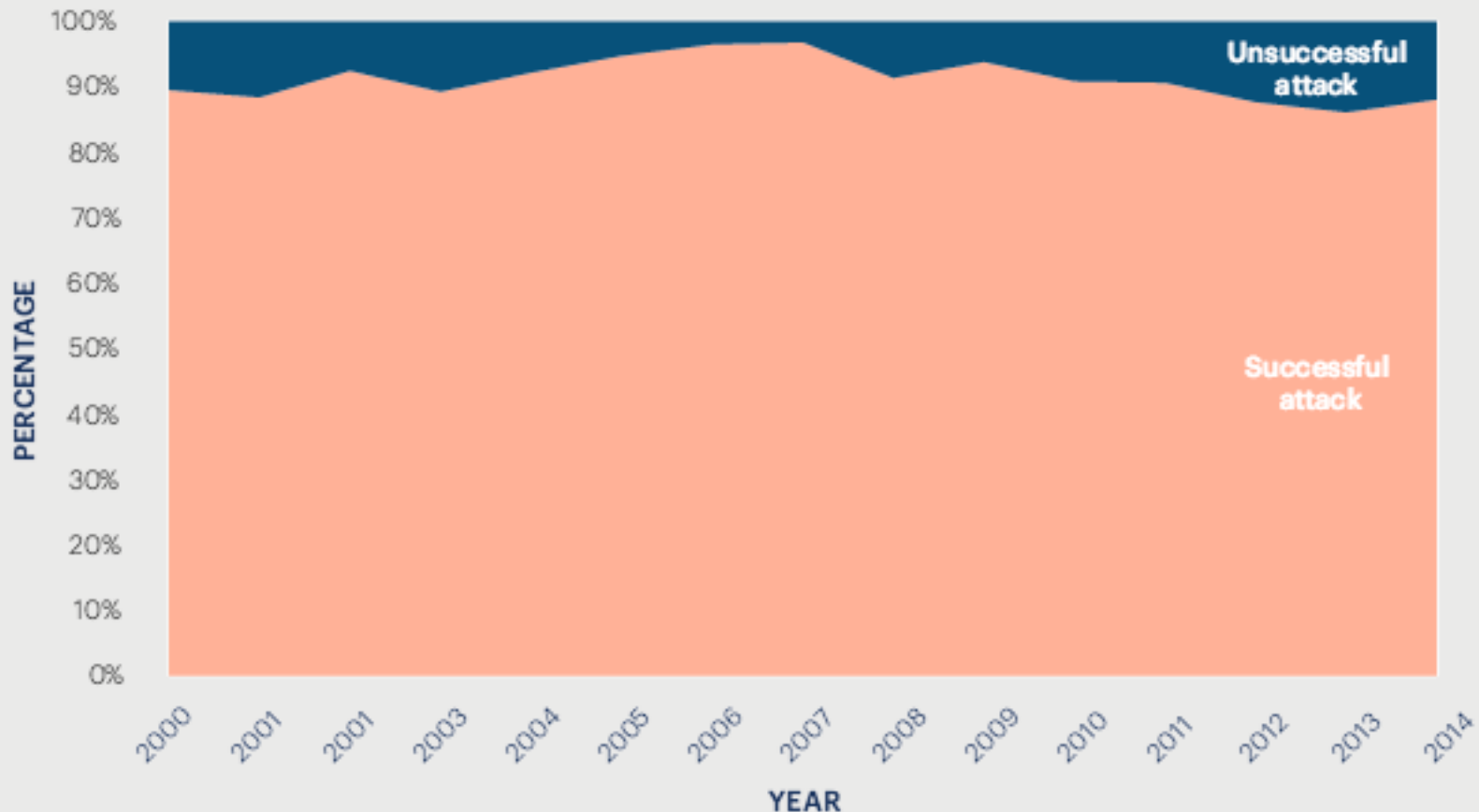
The majority of terrorist incidents are highly centralised. In 2014, 57 per cent of all attacks occurred in five countries; Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Syria. However the rest of the world suffered a 54 per cent increase in terrorist incidents in 2013.



Source: START GTD

Success Rates: 2000-2014

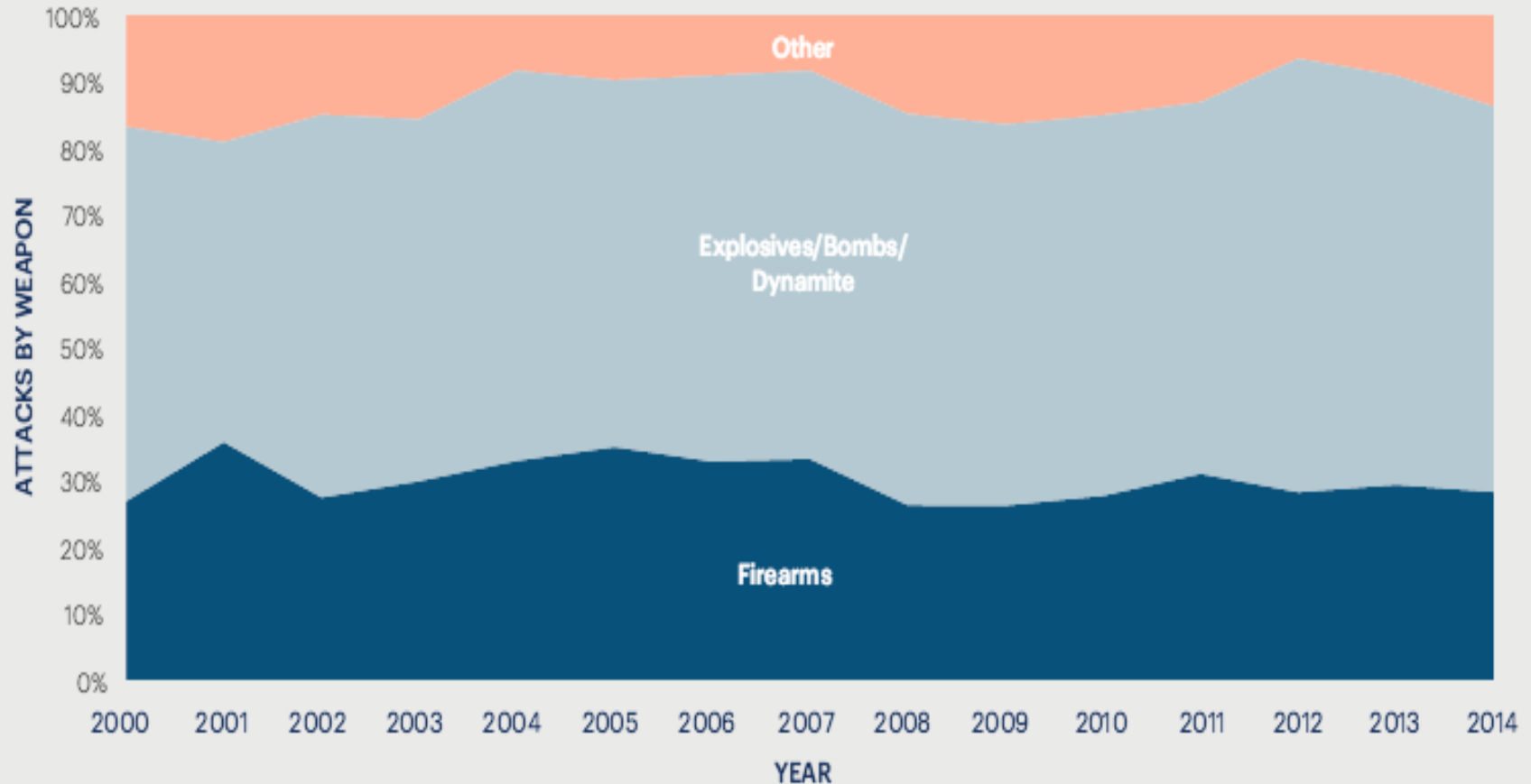
In 2014, 12 per cent of all incidents were unsuccessful. This represents a fourfold increase from 2007 when only three per cent of attacks were unsuccessful.



Source: START GTD

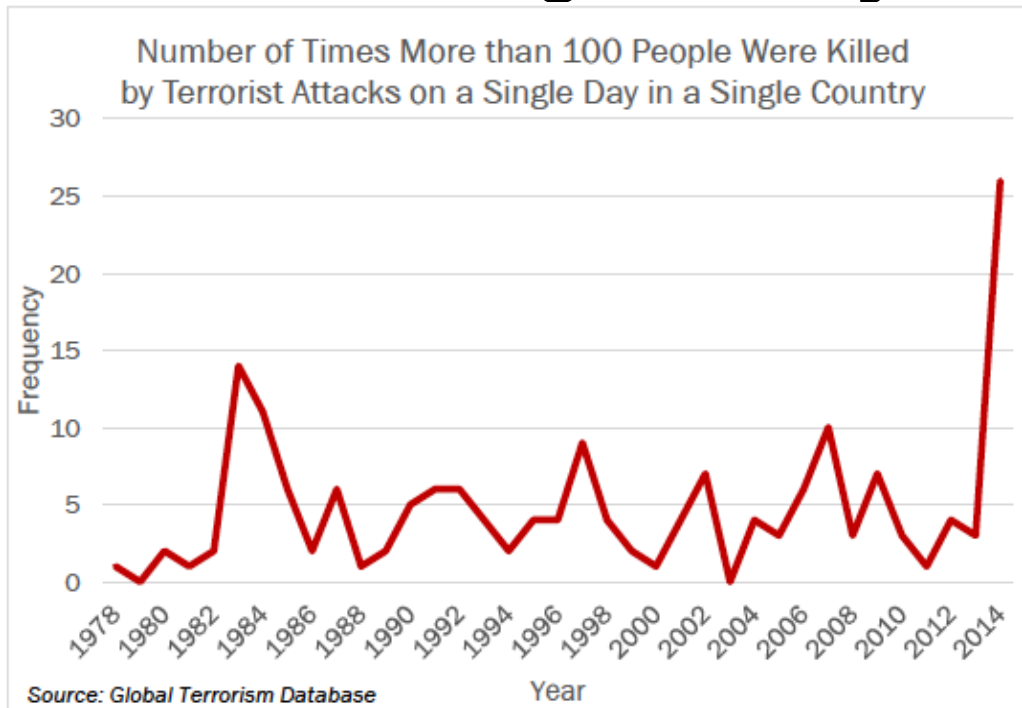
Key Methods of Attack: 2000-2014

The proportion of different weapons used in terrorist acts has remained relatively constant. Approximately 60 per cent of all attacks use explosives, 30 per cent use firearms and ten per cent use other weapons.



Source: START GTD

Rising Lethality of Attacks



Number of Times more than 100 People were Killed by Terrorist Attacks on a Single Day in a Single Country, 2000-2014	
Iraq	29
Nigeria	13
Pakistan	6
India	4
Syria	4
Nepal	3
Afghanistan	2
Angola	2
Russia	2
Sudan	2
Yemen	2
Central African Republic	1
Chad	1
China	1
Colombia	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1
Indonesia	1
Philippines	1
Somalia	1
South Sudan	1
Spain	1
Sri Lanka	1
Uganda	1
Ukraine	1
United States	1

Between 1970 and 2014, there have been **176 occasions on which terrorist attacks killed more than 100 people** (excluding perpetrators), in a particular country on a particular day. This includes both isolated attacks, multiple attacks, and multi-part, coordinated attacks. The first such event took place in 1978, when an arson attack targeting the Cinema Rex Theater in Abadan, Iran killed more than 400 people. Since the Cinema Rex attack, and until 2013, 4.2 such mass-fatality terrorist events happened per year, on average. **In 2014, the number increased dramatically when 26 mass-fatality terrorist events took place in eight different countries: Afghanistan (1), Central African Republic (1), Iraq (9), Nigeria (9), Pakistan (1), South Sudan (1), Syria (3), and Ukraine (1).**

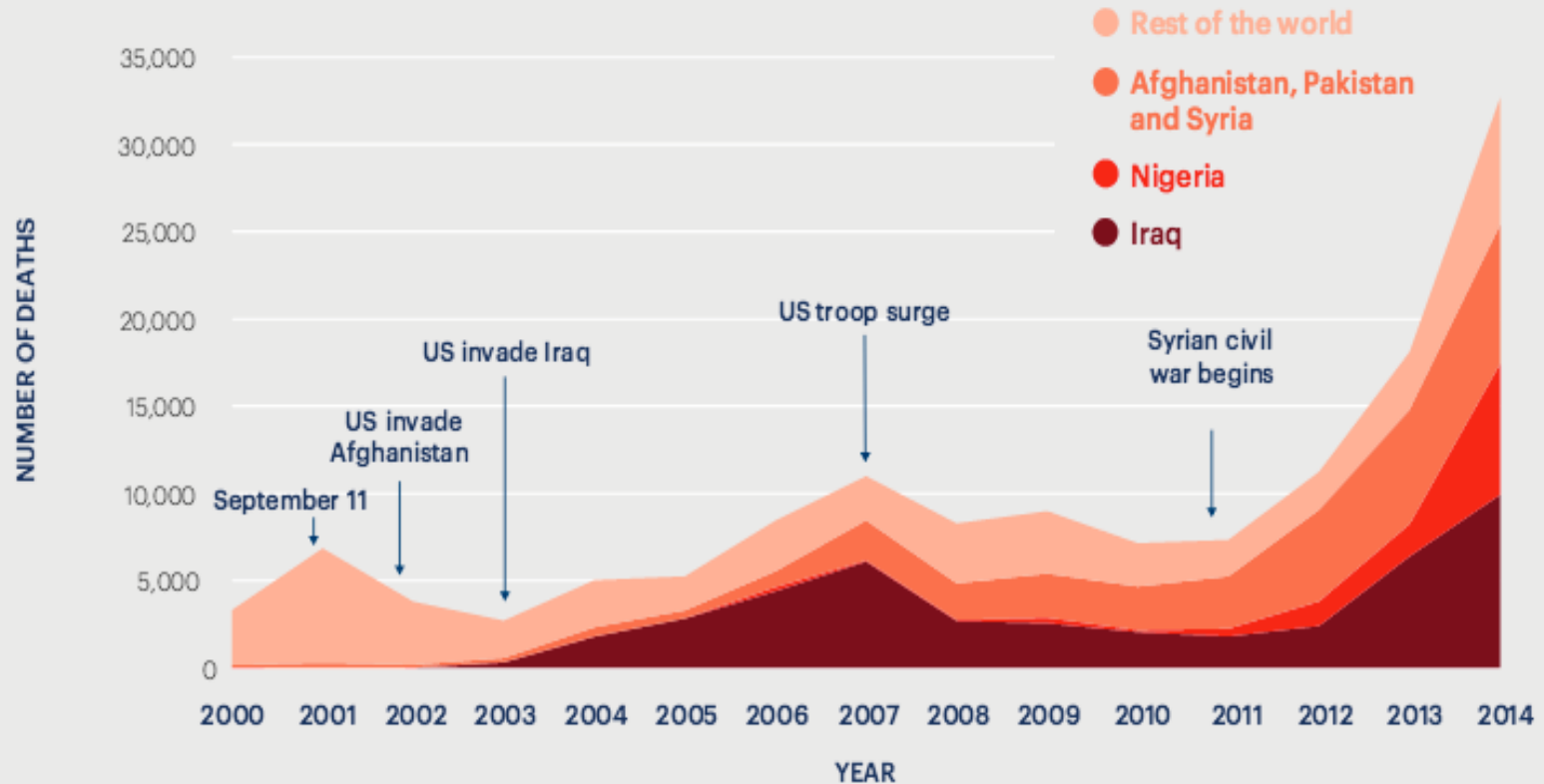
The occurrence of a series of attacks on a particular day that result in large numbers of casualties may or may not be indicative of explicit coordination among perpetrators. **Nearly half (11) of the 26 days in 2014 in which more than 100 victims were killed by terrorists in a single country involved the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as perpetrators. In Nigeria, all nine of the highly lethal days involved the perpetrator group Boko Haram. Other perpetrator groups responsible for attacks on these high-lethality days include the Taliban in Afghanistan, militia groups in the Central African Republic, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO), al-Nusrah Front, and the Luhansk People's Republic and the Donetsk People's Republic, both in Ukraine.**

Between 2000 and 2014, there were 83 days on which more than 100 people were killed by terrorist attacks in a single country. These attacks took place in 25 countries in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia; however, they were especially concentrated in Iraq and Nigeria.

Although Western Europe has historically experienced thousands of terrorist attacks, **highly lethal attacks like the recent events in Paris are extremely unusual. The deadliest terrorist attacks in Western Europe between 2000 and 2014 took place in Madrid, Spain, on March 11, 2004 when assailants attacked six different transportation targets with explosives. Four of the devices detonated, killing 191 people and wounding more than 1,800.**

Deaths from Terrorism: 2000-2014

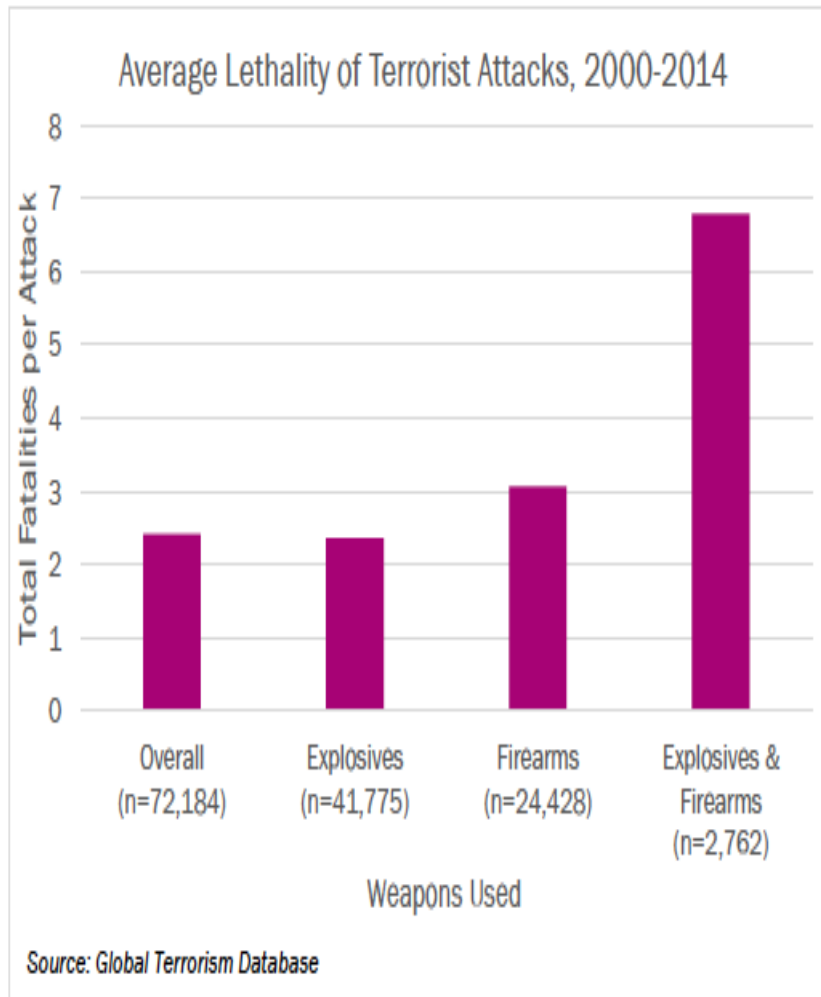
Deaths from terrorism have increased dramatically over the last 15 years. The number of people who have died from terrorist activity has increased ninefold since the year 2000.



Source: START GTD

NOTE: In 2011 there was a change in the data collection methodology for terrorist acts. The methodology change did not materially alter the results as the increase in terrorism is verifiable. For more information on the methodology change please see Annex D in the 2014 Global Terrorism Index.

Average Lethality: 2000-2014



The recent attacks in Paris reportedly involved both explosives and firearms. These two types of weapons are those most commonly used in terrorist attacks worldwide.

Between 2000 and 2014, explosives were used in 58 percent of all terrorist attacks, and firearms were used in 34 percent of all terrorist attacks. However *both* firearms and explosives were used much more rarely—in less than 4 percent of all attacks.

Attacks that involved firearms were somewhat more deadly than those involving explosives, causing 3.1 fatalities on average (including perpetrator deaths), compared to 2.4.

Despite the potential for explosives to cause mass casualties in certain cases, they were also more frequently used in attacks that are non-lethal (57%), either because they targeted only property or were unsuccessful at causing human casualties.

In comparison, 24 percent of all attacks involving only firearms worldwide between 2000 and 2014 were non-lethal.

Attacks that involved both explosives and firearms caused, on average, 6.8 deaths per attack. This rate of lethality is 2.8 times that of all attacks overall, and attacks involving explosives. It is 2.2 times the average lethality of attacks involving firearms.

Lethality Patterns by Month: 2014

Month	Total Attacks	Total Fatalities	Total Injuries	Total Kidnapped/ Taken Hostage
January	1150	1805	2932	294
February	1092	1958	2729	449
March	1211	2384	2801	345
April	1223	2659	3476	863
May	1338	3478	3456	801
June	1088	3871	2968	1354
July	1310	3630	2710	370
August	1101	2618	2374	1102
September	1042	2599	3015	852
October	1011	2679	2907	965
November	1001	2341	3136	726
December	896	2705	2287	1307
Total	13463	32727	34791	9428

In 2014, a total of 13,463 terrorist attacks occurred worldwide, resulting in more than 32,700 deaths and more than 34,700 injuries. In addition, more than 9,400 people were kidnapped or taken hostage. In this report we describe patterns of worldwide terrorist activity with respect to changes during the year, geographic concentration, casualties, perpetrator organizations, tactics, weapons, and targets.

On average, there were 1,122 terrorist attacks, 2,727 deaths, and 2,899 injuries per month worldwide in 2014. There were 2.57 fatalities and 2.87 injuries per attack, including perpetrator casualties.

The months with the most terrorist attacks and combined casualties (deaths and injuries) were May, June, and July. In particular, the high number of attacks in May coincides with the peak of spring “fighting season” in Afghanistan, where attacks increased more than 107% between February and May.

Contributing to the high number of fatalities in June, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) carried out an attack on Badush prison in Mosul, Iraq on June 10, 2014, which resulted in the deaths of 670 Shia prisoners. As of the end of 2014, this was the deadliest terrorist attack worldwide since September 11, 2001.

Also in June, there were five attacks in which more than 50 people were kidnapped. Three took place in Iraq, one in Somalia, and one in Syria. In August, four attacks (three in Iraq and one in Nigeria) involved the abduction of more than 50 people.

The exceptionally high number of hostages reported in December is largely a result of the attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar, Pakistan. Assailants from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan held more than 500 individuals hostage during a siege that killed at least 150 people.

More than 6,200 of the 32,700 people killed in 2014 (19%) were perpetrators of terrorist attacks. Perpetrators were killed intentionally in suicide attacks, accidentally while attempting to carry out attacks, or by security forces or victims responding to attacks.

Coordinated Attacks: 2000-2014

Lethality of Coordinated Terrorist Attacks among Countries with the Highest Percentage of Coordinated Terrorist Attacks, 2000-2014					
Country	Total Attacks	% Coordinated Attacks	Total Fatalities	Perpetrator Fatalities	Victim Fatalities
France	331	40%	0	0	0
South Sudan	57	35%	763	293	470
Bangladesh	480	35%	27	5	22
Nigeria	2170	33%	4592	776	3816
Myanmar	123	32%	26	0	26
Spain	412	29%	198	5	193
Indonesia	472	29%	318	17	301
Chile	63	29%	0	0	0
China	111	28%	196	118	78
Greece	442	27%	0	0	0
Macedonia	101	27%	1	0	1
Cameroon	79	27%	56	43	13
South Africa	69	26%	2	0	2
United States	289	25%	3009	20	2989
Burundi	159	24%	108	34	74
Ukraine	918	24%	104	33	71
Syria	834	22%	1240	233	1007
Egypt	743	22%	105	8	97
Italy	97	22%	0	0	0
Ethiopia	53	21%	16	0	16

Source: Global Terrorism Database

Like the recent attacks in Paris, some of the highly lethal terrorist attacks described above were carried out as part of coordinated events in which perpetrators execute multiple attacks simultaneously, or nearly simultaneously, typically in a single country or city. Between 2000 and 2014, 14 percent of all terrorist attacks that occurred worldwide were conducted in coordination with other attacks.

On average, individual attacks that were carried out as part of a coordinated event were slightly more deadly, causing 2.84 total fatalities on average, compared to isolated attacks, which caused 2.35 total fatalities on average. The average number of perpetrator fatalities among attacks that were part of a coordinated event were slightly higher as well—0.39 perpetrator deaths per attack, compared to 0.33 for isolated attacks.

More than 10,000 coordinated terrorist attacks took place in 104 countries between 2000 and 2014. Much like terrorism in general, these attacks were concentrated among a small number of countries. More than half of all coordinated attacks (54%) took place in Iraq, Pakistan, India, Nigeria, and Afghanistan.

Among countries that experienced more than 50 attacks between 2000 and 2014, France had the highest proportion of attacks that were carried out as part of multi-part, coordinated events, with 40 percent. The majority of these (87%) were carried out in Corsica by separatists including the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), causing property damage but no deaths and few injuries.

Key Perpetrators: 2000-2014

Perpetrator Groups Responsible for the Most Coordinated Terrorist Attacks, 2000-2014		
Perpetrator Group	Coordinated Attacks	Percent of Coordinated Attacks
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)	757	12%
Boko Haram	558	9%
Taliban	444	7%
Al-Qa'ida in Iraq	400	6%
Communist Party of India - Maoist (CPI-Maoist) / Maoists	337	5%
Al-Shabaab	244	4%
Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)	175	3%
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)	165	3%
New People's Army (NPA)	119	2%
Fulani Militants	104	2%
Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)	103	2%
Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC)	86	1%
Donetsk People's Republic	83	1%
Basque Fatherland and Freedom (ETA)	69	1%
Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)	64	1%
Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)	63	1%
Jemaah Islamiya (JI)	61	1%
United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)	60	1%
Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM)	55	1%
Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement)	52	1%
Unaffiliated Individual(s)	50	1%

Source: Global Terrorism Database

The perpetrator of the attack was unidentified for 40 percent of all coordinated terrorist attacks that took place worldwide between 2000 and 2014. The remaining 60 percent were disproportionately carried out by a relatively small number of perpetrator groups.

While the recent attack in Paris shares similarities with the November 2008 attack in Mumbai, India, the perpetrator group in that attack, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), is not among the most frequent perpetrators of coordinated attacks.

In contrast, ISIL, under its current incarnation, carried out more than 750 coordinated attacks during this time period—specifically in 2013 and 2014. However, this is a conservative assessment because the Global Terrorism Database records the names of perpetrator organizations at the time of the attack.

Thus, it is important to note that al-Qa'ida in Iraq (AQI), ISIL's predecessor, carried out at least 400 coordinated attacks as well. Also, 25 coordinated attacks were attributed to the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), another identity previously assumed by ISIL, and several other coordinated attacks were carried out by provinces of the Islamic State, including the Sinai Province and the Tripoli Province.

Other organizations that have carried out more than a hundred coordinated attacks include Boko Haram in Nigeria, the Taliban in Afghanistan, the Communist Party of India- Maoist and unaffiliated Maoists in India, al-Shabaab primarily in Somalia and Kenya, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC), the New People's Army (NPA) in the Philippines, Fulani militants in Nigeria and the Central African Republic, and al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

In addition, at least 50 coordinated attacks between 2000 and 2014 were carried out by individuals who reportedly were not affiliated with a particular terrorist organization or group. These attacks took place in 10 countries; however, 30 of them (60%) occurred in the United States and were carried out in pursuit of a wide variety of ideological goals. Eighteen of the attacks were part of a series in which a single perpetrator motivated by anti-government sentiment planted pipe bombs in mailboxes in five U.S. states.

Key Perpetrators: 2013-2014

	Total Attacks		Total Fatalities		Total Injuries		Hostages Taken		Number of Countries	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)	1083	429	6286	1752	5808	4529	3158	114	5	4
Taliban	894	648	3492	2356	3312	2249	649	229	2	2
Al-Shabaab	497	196	1022	517	850	761	579	132	4	4
Boko Haram	453	217	6644	1595	1742	370	1217	38	3	3
Maoists / Communist Party of India-Maoist	305	203	188	192	165	126	160	83	1	1

- Among these five perpetrator groups, the average lethality of attacks carried out by ISIL (6.46 people killed per attack), the Taliban (4.07), and Boko Haram (16.86) were higher than the global average (2.57) in 2014. The average lethality of attacks carried out by al-Shabaab (2.46) was slightly lower than the global average. Attacks carried out by Maoist perpetrators in India were by far the least deadly and the least likely to be deadly, causing 0.63 deaths per attack.
- All five of the most active groups markedly increased the number of hostages taken in 2014; however, the increases in hostage-takings by ISIL and Boko Haram were exceptionally large. Attacks carried out by these two groups in 2014 involved more than 4,300 hostages, 50% of all hostages taken in terrorist attacks worldwide in which the perpetrator group was identified.
- Boko Haram also increased its use of suicide tactics in 2014, carrying out 31 suicide attacks, compared to three in 2013.

Key Countries by Location: 2013-2014

	Total Attacks		Total Fatalities		Fatalities per Attack		Total Injuries		Injured per Attack		Hostages Taken	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Iraq	3370	2501	9929	6387	3.07	2.59	15137	14976	4.79	6.10	2658	267
Pakistan	1821	1941	1757	2351	0.99	1.24	2837	5075	1.61	2.71	869	417
Afghanistan	1591	1149	4505	3111	2.92	2.76	4699	3724	3.16	3.37	719	273
India	763	632	426	409	0.59	0.66	643	717	0.90	1.18	302	190
Nigeria	662	309	7512	1842	12.8	6.46	2246	472	6.31	1.98	1298	89
Syria	232	222	1698	1084	8.24	5.19	1473	1776	9.32	9.45	872	214
Worldwide	13463	9964	32727	18066	2.57	1.86	34791	32880	2.86	3.45	9428	3137

NOTE: India, which was among the five countries with the most attacks in 2014, ranked 13th in terms of fatalities. Syria, which was among the five countries with the most fatalities in 2014, ranked 14 th in terms of attacks.

Although terrorist attacks took place in 95 countries in 2014, they were heavily concentrated geographically. **More than 60% of all attacks took place in five countries (Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Nigeria), and 78% of all fatalities due to terrorist attacks took place in five countries (Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria).**

Given the limitations of media coverage in Syria, the data presented here are conservative estimates of terrorism in Syria. Consistent with START's practice of including in the GTD only those attacks that have been verified by at least one well-regarded source, these statistics represent those incidents that were reported by independent news outlets. Globally aggregated statistics do not represent uniform patterns worldwide. They are produced by diverse trends in violence and heavily influenced by events in several key locations. The statistical profiles in Table 2 illustrate many of these dynamics.

Attacks: Large increases in Iraq and Afghanistan, two countries that also experienced high numbers of attacks in 2013, comprise more than one-third (37%) of the 35% increase in total attacks worldwide in 2014 compared to 2013.

Fatalities: Large increases in Nigeria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, three countries that also experienced high numbers of fatalities due to terrorist attacks in 2013, comprise more than two-thirds (72%) of the 81% increase in total fatalities worldwide in 2014 compared to 2013. Also, approximately one-quarter (26%) of the increase in total fatalities was attributable to increases in perpetrator fatalities, which were especially prevalent in Iraq, Nigeria, and Syria.

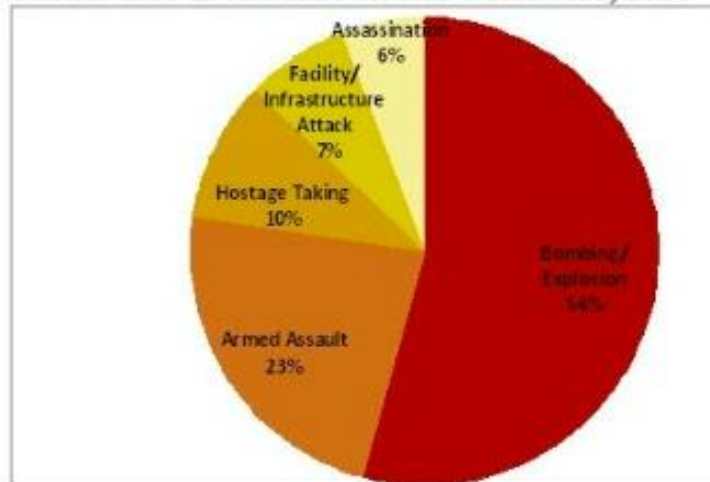
Injuries: The total number of injuries due to terrorist attacks increased slightly (6%) in 2014. This was largely a product of various regional trends, including a 376% increase in injuries in Nigeria in 2014, and a 44% decrease in injuries in Pakistan in 2014 compared to 2013.

Hostages: Several countries observed large increases in the number of hostages taken in terrorist attacks in 2014. However, the largest increases took place in Iraq, Nigeria, and Syria, comprising more than two-thirds (68%) of the 201% increase in hostages worldwide in 2014 compared to 2013. This considerable increase in the total number of hostages taken by perpetrators of terrorist attacks is a result of a large increase in the number of attacks that involved any hostages as well as a large increase in the number of attacks that involved more than 100 hostages.

Four of the five countries that experienced the most terrorist attacks in 2014 were the same as those that experienced the most terrorism in 2013. The one exception was the Philippines, which experienced a 24% decline in attacks, and ranked 10 th among countries with the most terrorism in 2014. Nigeria, which ranked 7 th among countries with the most terrorist attacks in 2013, experienced a 114% increase in attacks and a 308% increase in fatalities in 2014.

Tactics and Targets: 2014

Tactics used in terrorist attacks worldwide, 2014



Each recorded terrorist attack can involve one or more tactics in a continuous sequence of actions. The most commonly used tactic in 2014 involved explosives (54%), followed by armed assaults (23%), which almost always involved firearms.

Although the pattern of tactics in 2014 generally remained consistent with 2013, bombings and assassinations were slightly less prevalent in 2014, while hostage takings (a combination of kidnapping and barricade events) were relatively more prevalent. In particular, **the percentage of attacks classified as bombings decreased from 57% to 54%, and the percentage of assassinations decreased.**

In addition to the tactics shown in Figure 2, there were 39 unarmed assaults in 2014. There were also 42 hijackings carried out in 2014, primarily involving cars, trucks, and buses as well as three maritime targets and one airplane.

A total of 574 terrorist suicide attacks took place in 2014, resulting in more than 4,700 deaths and more than 7,800 injuries. Although these attacks took place in 17 countries, 70% of them occurred in Iraq and Afghanistan. On average, suicide attacks in 2014 were 3.6 times as lethal as non-suicide attacks.

Target Type	Number of Targets
Private Citizens & Property	5016
Police	2679
Government (General)	1545
Business	1127
Military	805
Religious Figures/Institutions	418
Terrorists/Non-State Militia	400
Educational Institutions	384
Transportation	355
Utilities	344
Journalists & Media	231
Government (Diplomatic)	155
Violent Political Party ⁵	131
Other	85
NGO	82
Airports & Airlines	58
Telecommunication	50
Food or Water Supply	21
Maritime	16
Total	13911

Fewer than 1,300 terrorist attacks in 2014 involved multiple types of targets. More than half of all targets attacked in 2014 (55%) were classified as either private citizens and property or police.

Terrorist attacks were particularly likely to target private citizens and property in Nigeria (66% of attacks in Nigeria) and Iraq (41% of attacks in Iraq).

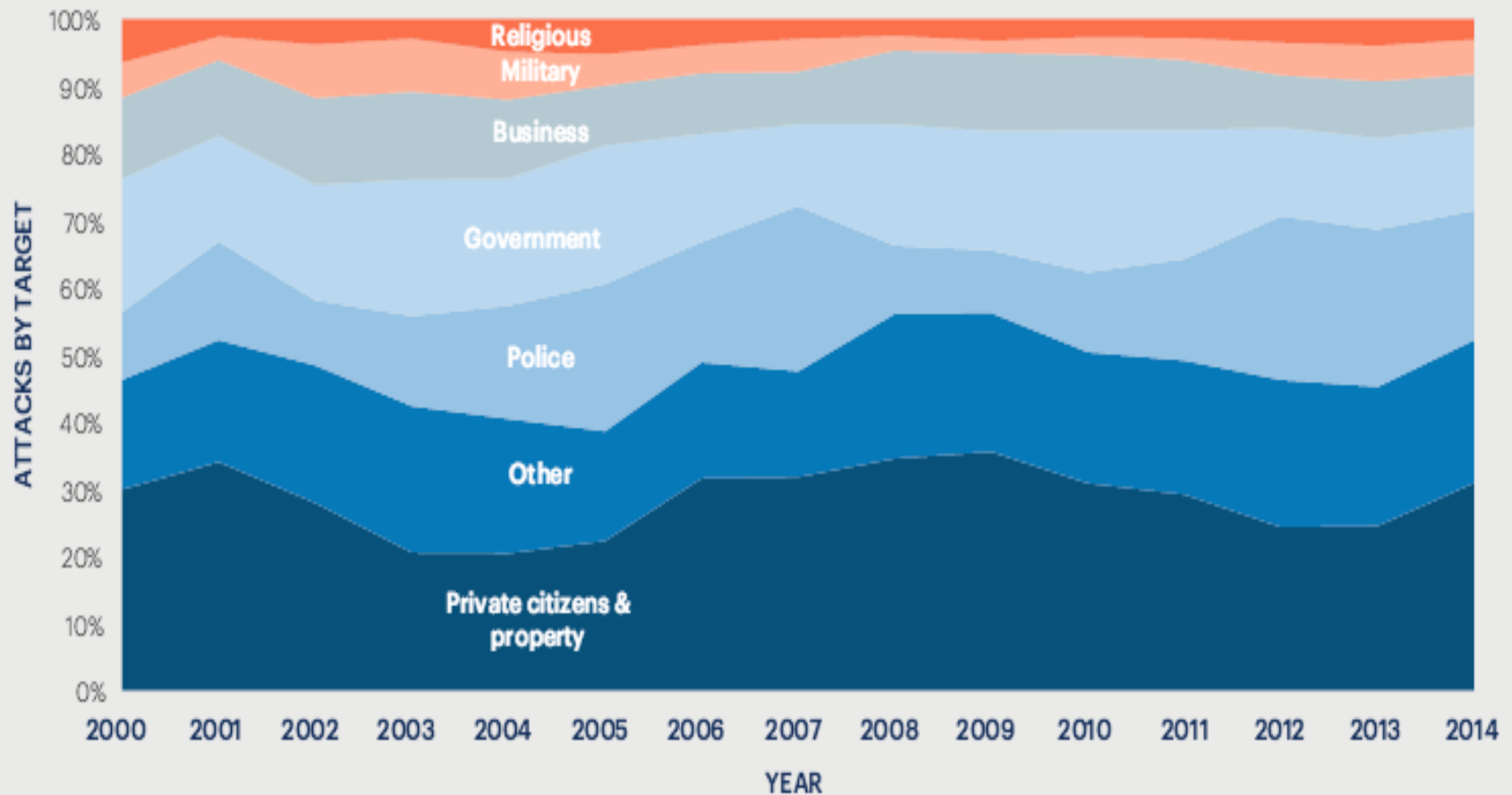
Attacks targeting police were most frequently aimed at police officers, security forces, or patrols, and took place disproportionately in Afghanistan (43%).

The most ubiquitous targets of terrorist attacks in 2014 were private citizens and property (attacked in 72 countries) and non-diplomatic government entities (attacked in 62 countries).

Attacks on journalism and media targets increased 34% in 2014 compared to 2013, and occurred in 30 countries; . Attacks on journalists and media targets were most frequently classified as kidnappings (31%), assassinations (27%), and bombings (18%).

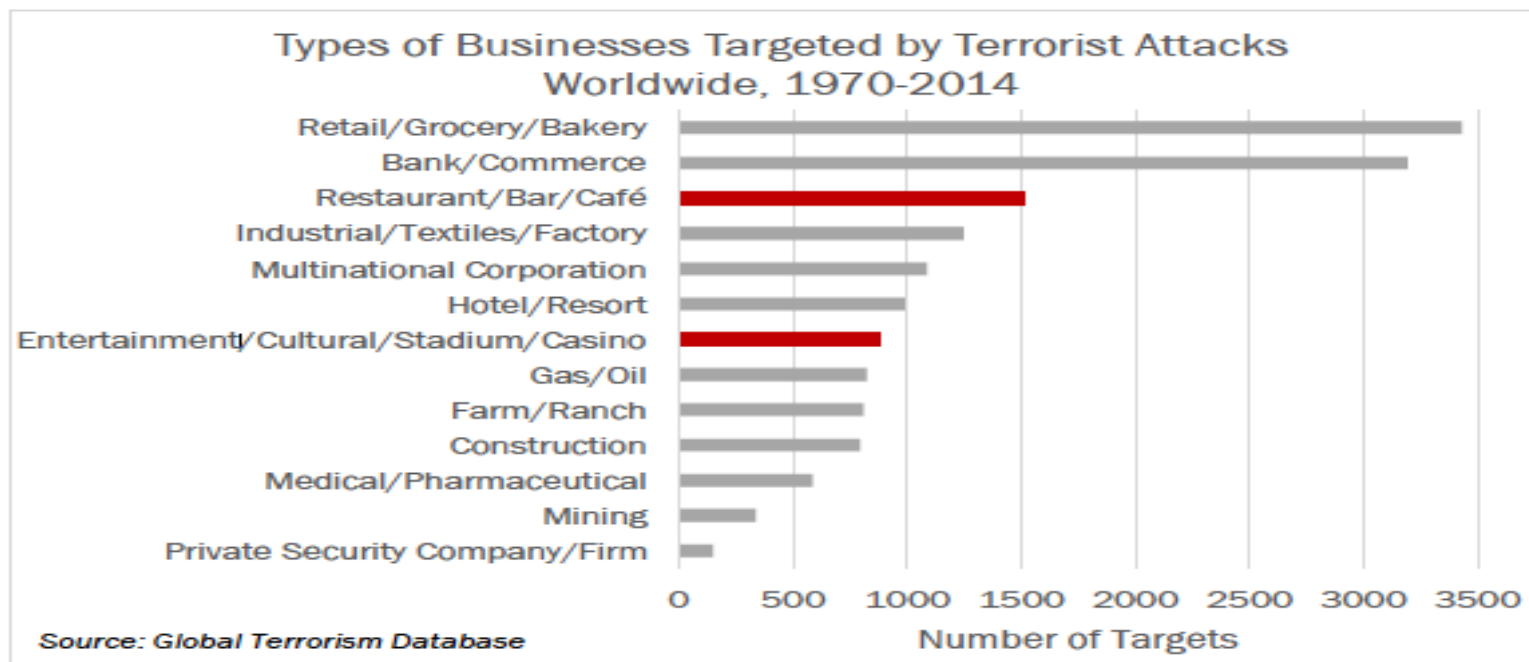
Targets of Terrorism: 2000-2014

The primary target of terrorism has historically been private property and citizens. In 2014 this trend continued with a six per cent increase towards private citizens and their property.



Source: START GTD

Target by Business Type



The attacks in Paris reportedly targeted several “soft” targets where large numbers of civilians gather without extraordinary security measures in place. The targets included several restaurants, a theater where a concert was being held, and a sports arena where a soccer match was being held.

The Global Terrorism Database classifies these particular types of targets as businesses, subcategorized as “restaurants/bars/cafés” and entertainment/cultural/stadiums/ casinos.” Between 1970 and 2014, more than 2,300 of these types of targets were attacked by terrorists.

Among the most deadly attacks on these restaurant/entertainment targets were two coordinated attacks targeting tourists at Paddy’s Bar and the Sari Club in Kuta, Indonesia in October 2002. These attacks, which were claimed by al-Qa’ida and also attributed to members of Jemaah Islamiyah, killed more than 200 people and wounded more than 300 others.

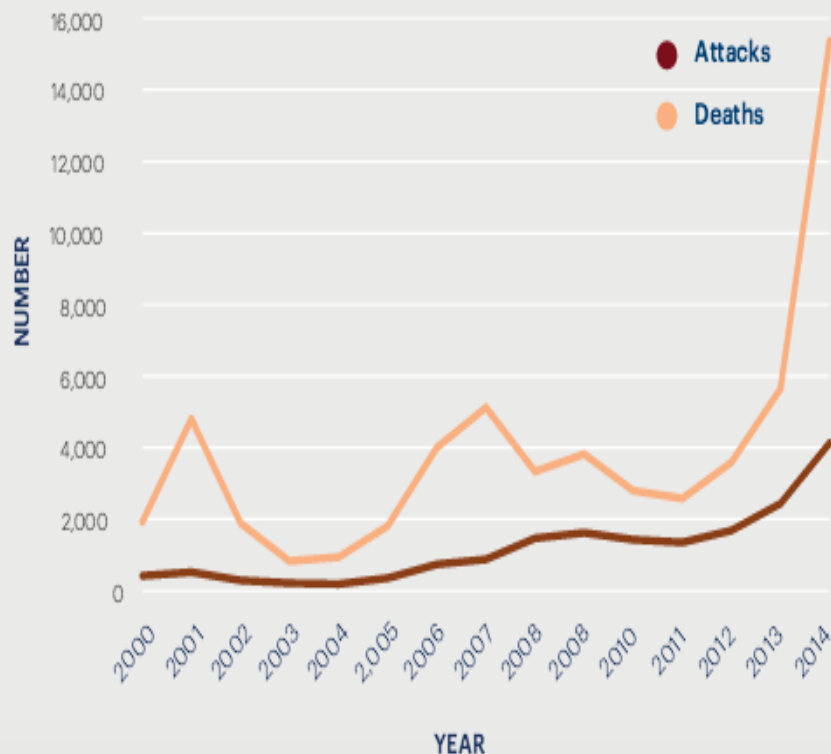
Later that same month, Chechen rebels attacked Dubrovka Theater in Moscow, holding more than 900 people hostage. After a three-day standoff, Russian special forces filled the building with an unidentified gas intended to subdue the perpetrators. The gas killed all 40 perpetrators as well as 125 hostages. Five additional hostages were killed by the attackers during a shoot-out.

Over this entire 45-year time period, the most terrorist attacks against restaurant/entertainment targets took place in Iraq (342), the United Kingdom (167), Spain (131), Colombia (122), and France (118). However, nearly all of the attacks in Iraq took place in the 21st century and were carried out by ISIL and its predecessors.

In contrast, attacks in Western Europe and Latin America were somewhat more concentrated in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, and were most commonly attributed to perpetrator organizations like Basque Fatherland and Freedom (ETA), the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), the Irish Republican Army (IRA), and the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC).

Private Citizens and Property: 2000-2014

Private citizens have borne the brunt of the increase in deaths from terrorism. Deaths of private citizens increased 172 per cent between 2013 and 2014 compared to total deaths which rose 80 per cent.



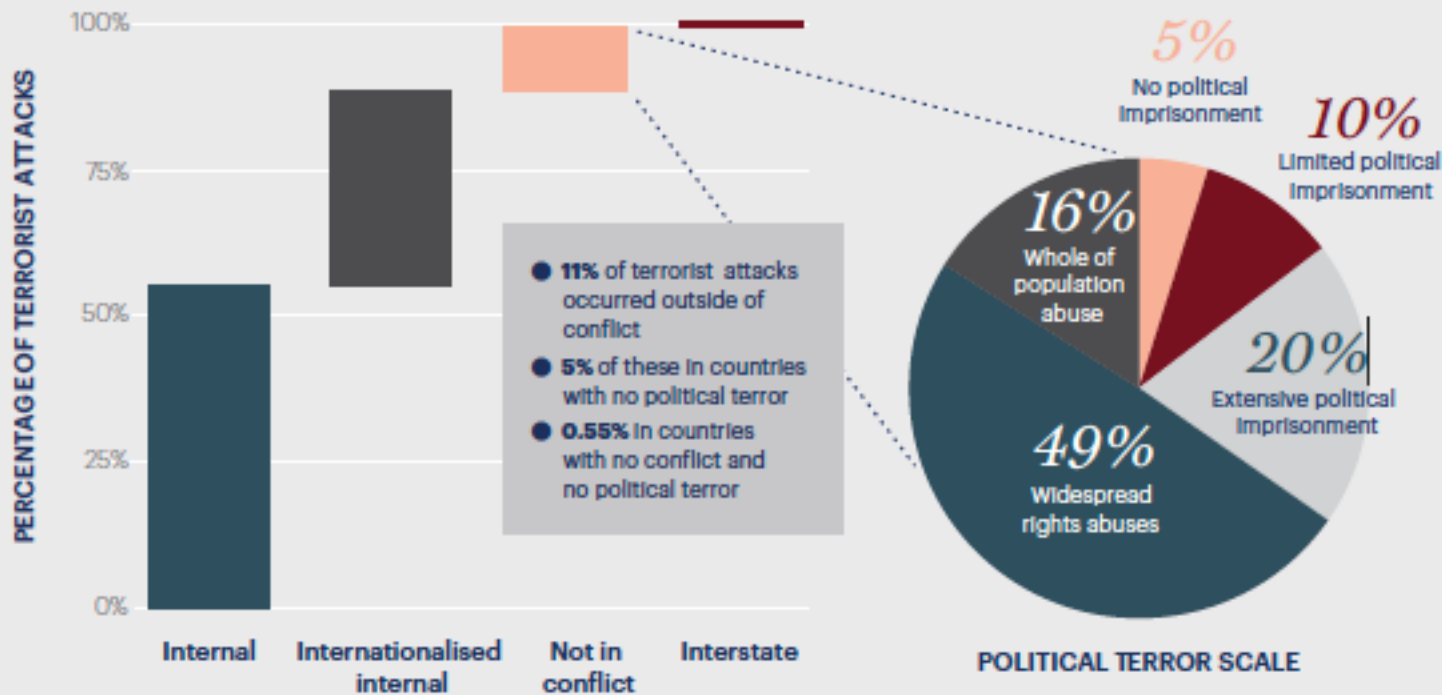
DEATHS BY TARGET TYPE BETWEEN 2013 AND 2014

TARGETS	2013	2014	DIFFERENCE	PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE
Private citizens & property	5,647	15,380	9,734	172%
Other	1,921	3,496	1,576	82%
Military	1,439	2,530	1,091	76%
Police	4,536	6,124	1,589	35%
Business	1,604	1,983	379	24%
Government	1,715	2,060	345	20%
Religious	1,250	1,111	-139	-11%

Terrorism in Violent and War-Torn Countries

Terror and Conflict

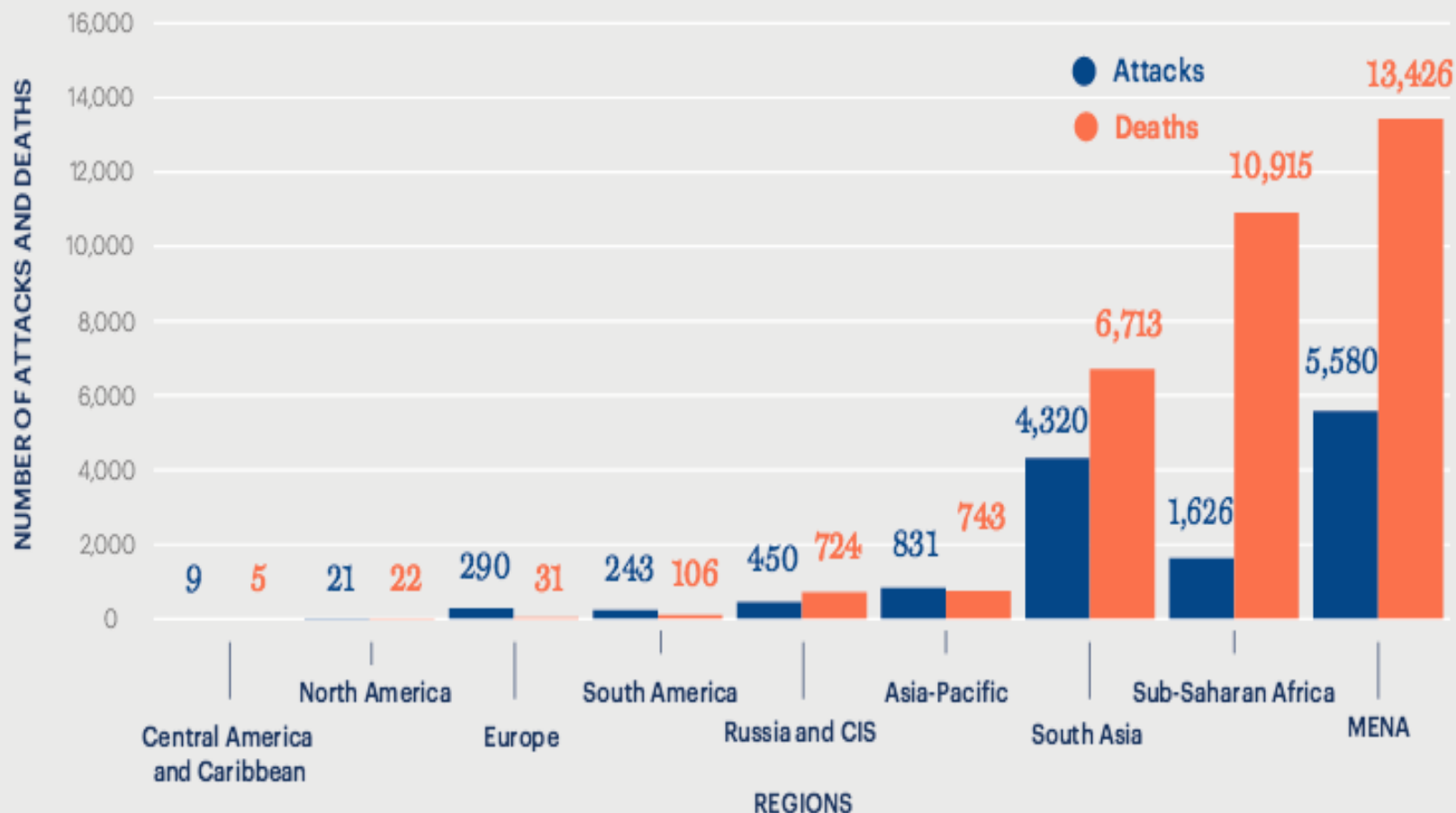
Eighty-eight per cent of all terrorist attacks occurred in countries that were experiencing or involved in violent conflicts. Eleven per cent of terrorist attacks occurred in countries that at the time were not involved in conflict. Less than 0.6 per cent of all terrorist attacks occurred in countries without any ongoing conflict and any form of political terror.



Source: START GTD, UCDP

Deaths by Region: 2014

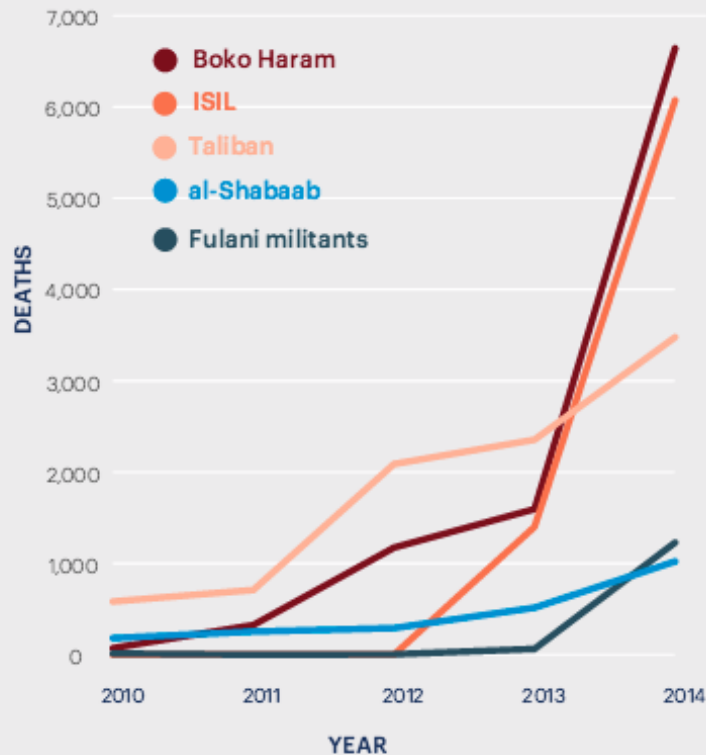
Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) and sub-Saharan Africa have the highest deaths in 2014. Both regions have many more deaths per attack than other regions.



Source: START GTD

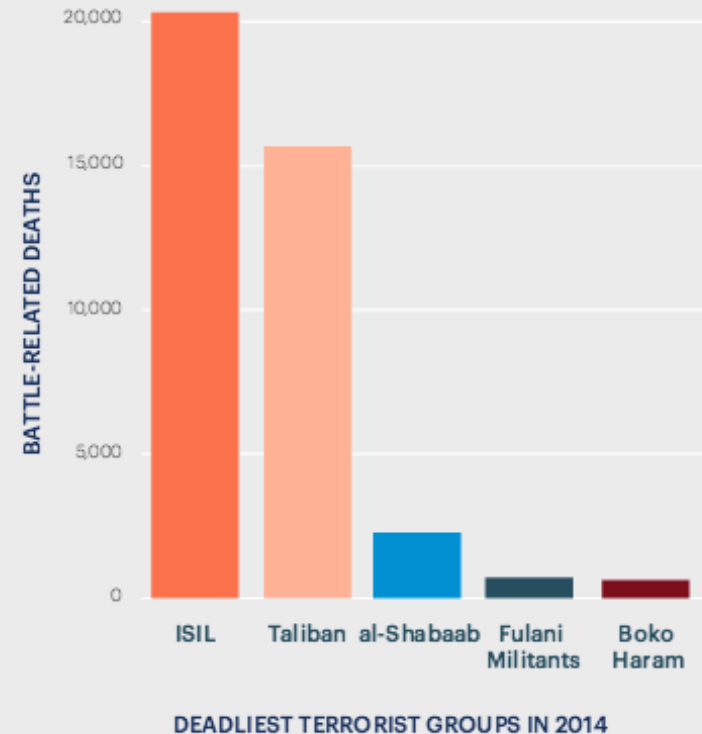
Impact of Key Terrorist Groups: 2014

Both Boko Haram and ISIL dramatically increased their death tolls from 2013 to 2014.



Source: START GTD

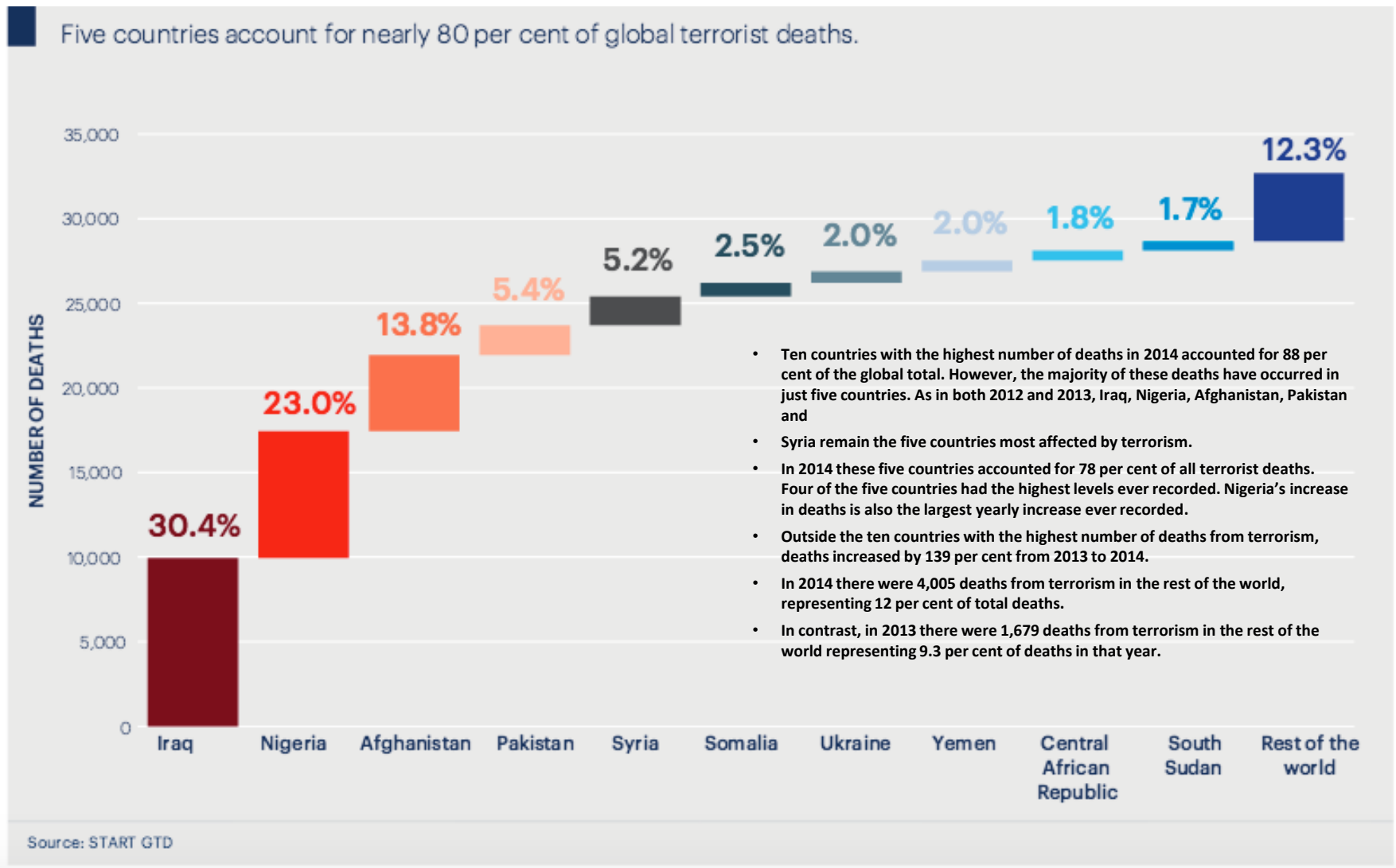
The five most deadly terrorist groups are also responsible for deaths not categorised as terrorism. ISIL is the deadliest terrorist group and was in conflicts which killed over 20,000 people in 2014.



Source: UCDP

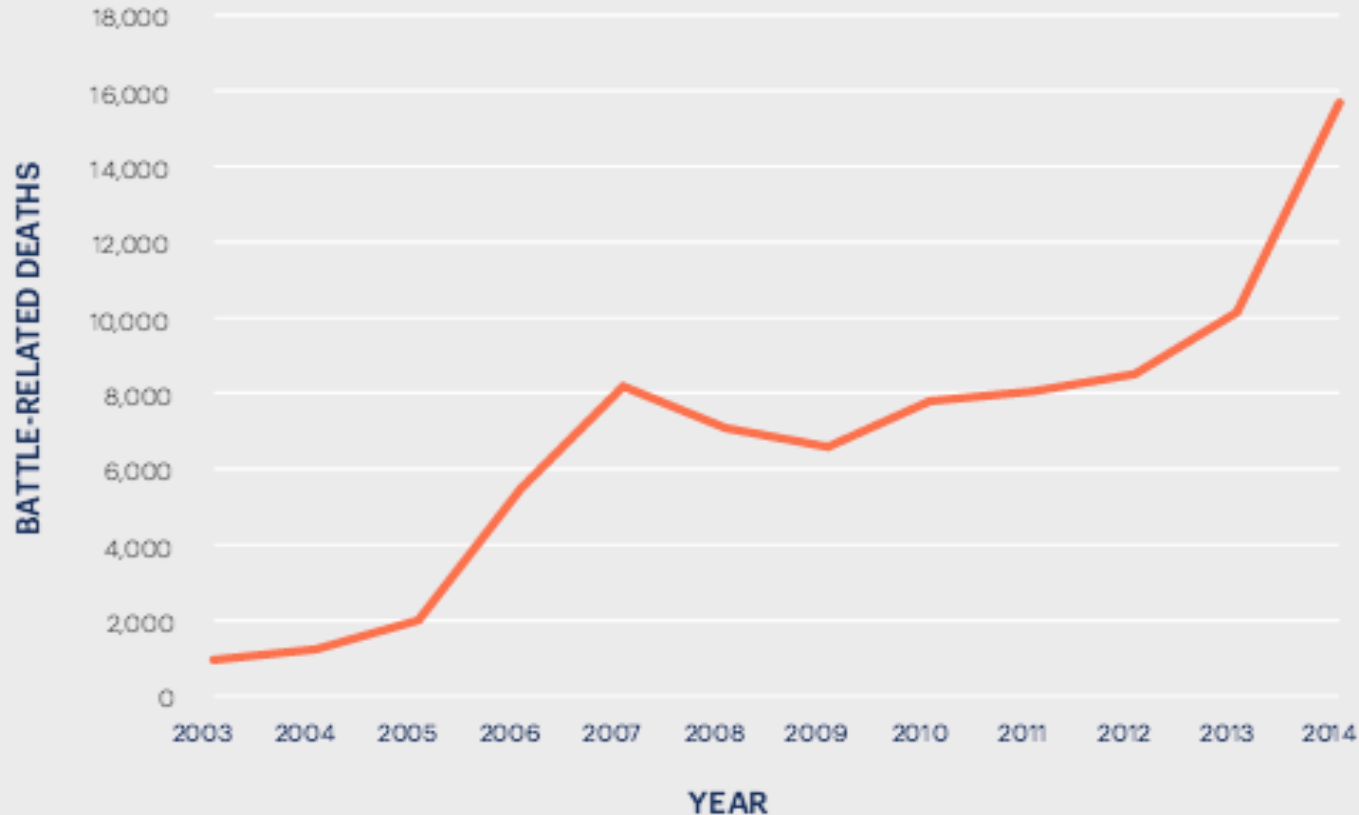
NOTE: There were 53,948 battle-related deaths recorded between the Assad regime and Syrian insurgents which includes ISIL amongst other groups. This means the figures of battle-related deaths for ISIL are likely to be much higher.

Countries with Highest terrorist Death Rate: 2000-2014



Afghan Government and Taliban Battle Deaths: 2014

The conflict between the Government of Afghanistan and its allies and the Taliban recorded the highest number of battle-related deaths in 2014. There were 55 per cent more deaths in this conflict in 2014 than the previous year.



Source: UCDP

Number of Years A country Has Been in Top Ten Affected by Terrorism

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Burundi	Angola	DRC	Nepal	Colombia	Nigeria		Somalia	Algeria			Iraq	Afghanistan	India	
CAR	Chad	Israel	Uganda	Sudan	Philippines			Russia				Pakistan		
China	Indonesia	Syria		Yemen	Sri Lanka									
Egypt					Thailand									
Guinea														
Kenya														
South Sudan														
Spain														
Ukraine														
United States														

Iraq had 25 per cent of all terrorist incidents, followed by Pakistan with 14 per cent and Afghanistan with 12 per cent. Nigeria experienced only five per cent of the incidents but had the second highest number of deaths at 23 per cent. Terrorist attacks are much more lethal in Nigeria than any other country. On average there were 11 deaths per attack in Nigeria. In contrast Iraq had an average of three deaths per attack.

There were ten countries which were ranked as being amongst the countries with the ten highest levels of fatalities for only one year out of the last 15 years. This includes the United States, which had 44 per cent of global deaths in 2001 due to the September 11 attack. In contrast, there were 22 countries which were in the group for at least two years.

Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan have all been ranked in the ten countries with the highest number of deaths from terrorism for every year in the last ten years. This reflects that terrorism has remained a significant issue in these three countries ever since 2003. Somalia has featured in the ten most affected countries for the last eight years in a row.

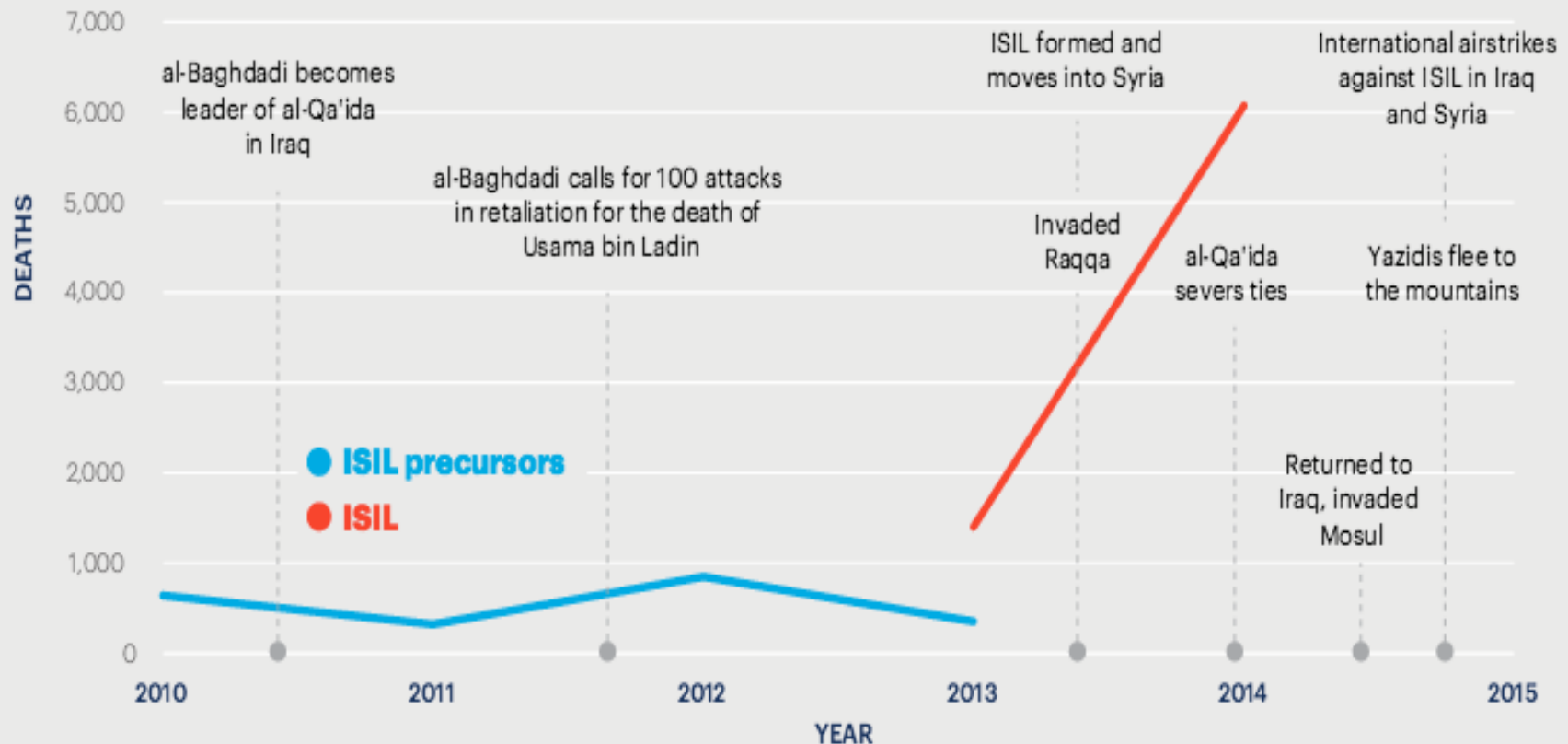
2014 was the first time since 2000 that India has not featured among the ten countries with highest fatalities from terrorism. However, this is due to the growth of terrorism in other countries more than to an improvement in India. The number of people killed from terrorism in India increased by 1.2 per cent from 2013 to reach a total of 416.

The Growing Role of ISIS

ISIS in Syria and Iraq

AQIM and ISIS/ISIL Deaths: 2010-2014

ISIL is a much more deadly terrorist group than any of its precursor groups. Precursors to ISIL are the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) and al-Qa'ida in Iraq (AQI).



Source: START GTD

Terrorism in West: Pre-Paris

Deaths in Western Countries: 2014

Of the 37 deaths from terrorism in Western countries in 2014, 18 people were killed in the United States in 2014. The eight other countries that had a fatal terrorist attack had a combined total of 19 deaths in 2014.

COUNTRY	DEATHS	ATTACKS	COUNTRY	DEATHS	ATTACKS
United States	18	19	Germany	0	12
Australia	4	7	Italy	0	7
Canada	4	2	Sweden	0	6
Belgium	4	1	Cyprus	0	4
Kosovo	2	4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	3
Austria	2	1	Macedonia	0	3
France	1	11	Spain	0	3
Czech Republic	1	3	Bulgaria	0	1
Albania	1	2	Hungary	0	1
United Kingdom	0	102	Iceland	0	1
Ireland	0	30	Netherlands	0	1
Greece	0	26			

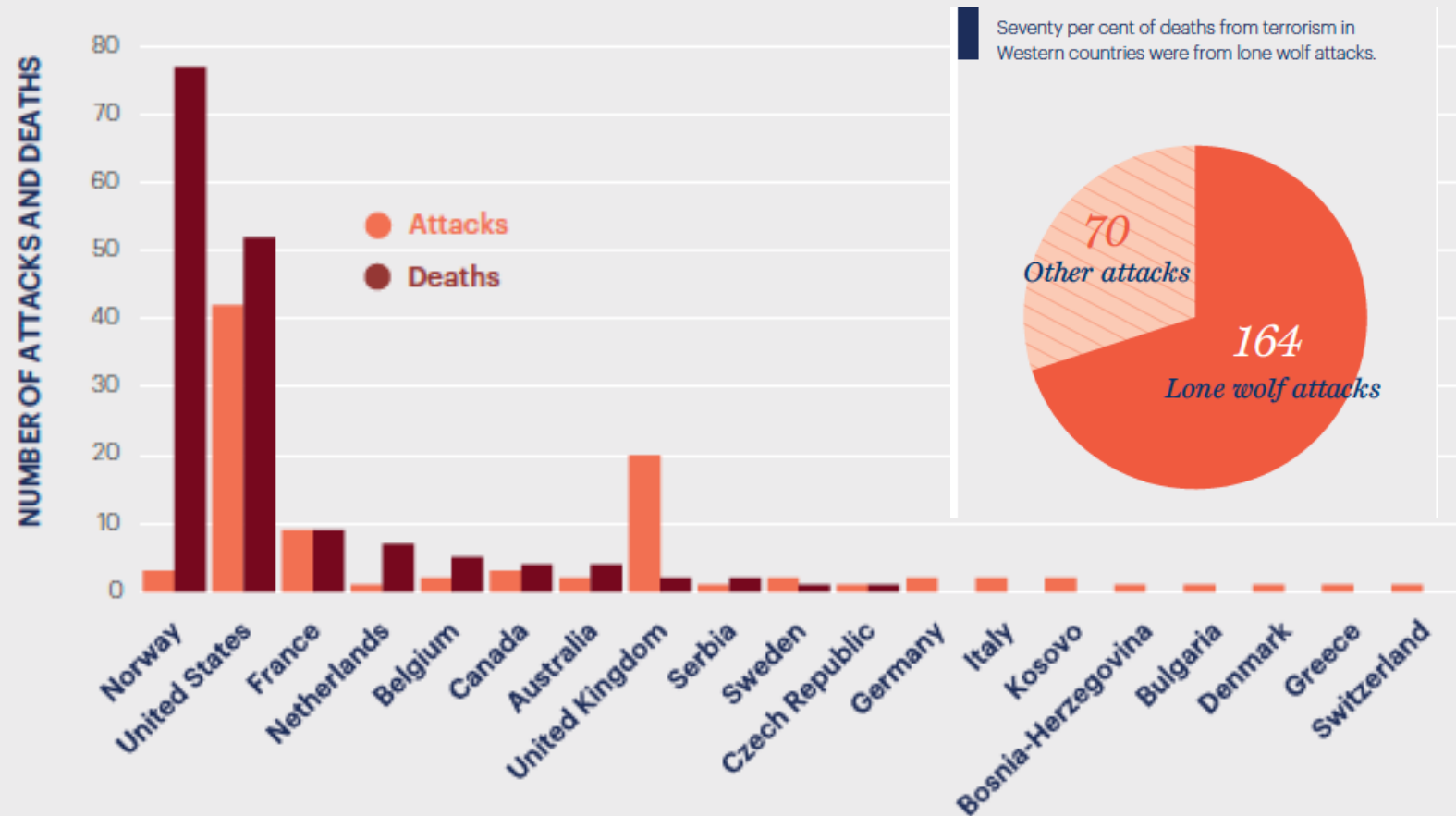
On its own, the September 11 attack accounts for 82 per cent of the total number of deaths from terrorism in Western countries from 2000 to 2014. The Madrid train bombings which killed nearly 200 people represents five per cent of total deaths from terrorism, whilst the Norwegian massacre which killed 77 and the London bombings which killed 56 account for around two per cent each. These attacks caused mass panic and are considered serious security breaches by citizens of the West expecting their governments to provide protection from such events.

In 2014, in the countries classified as the West, the United States had the most deaths from terrorism with 18 deaths. Eighty-two per cent of fatal attacks in the US involved a firearm where the assailant was an American citizen. Of the 19 attacks that occurred in the United States in 2014, all but five were committed by individuals. These attacks were largely motivated by right wing extremism or white supremacists. There were eight attacks by right wing extremists undertaken by individuals or people with an affiliation to Sovereign Citizens, which is a network of individuals that have antigovernment views. Two attacks were motivated by antigovernment views and two attacks by anti-semitism. Four out of the 19 attacks in the US had a jihadist element. These attacks were three shootings by Ali Muhammad Brown who cited opposition to US foreign policy as the motivation for his attacks, and the hatchet attack of police officers in New York by Zale Thompson.

Australia, Belgium and Canada all recorded four deaths. The most deadly single attack in these countries occurred in Belgium where four people were killed in Brussels when a fighter who had recently returned from Syria and who had ties to ISIL opened fire at the Jewish Museum. The United Kingdom recorded the highest number of incidents with 102, however these resulted in no deaths. The majority of these attacks occurred in Northern Ireland and involved the New IRA. The other countries which suffered fatalities from terrorism in 2014 were Kosovo, Austria, France, Czech Republic and Albania. Collectively these countries accounted for seven deaths, or 19 per cent of the total deaths seen in the West. There were more terrorist attacks in Europe than in North America, with 222 attacks occurring in Europe which is 89 per cent of attacks in the West. However, the lethality of these attacks was low with 0.05 deaths per attack compared to the global average of 2.4 deaths per attack.

“Lone Wolf” Factor in the West

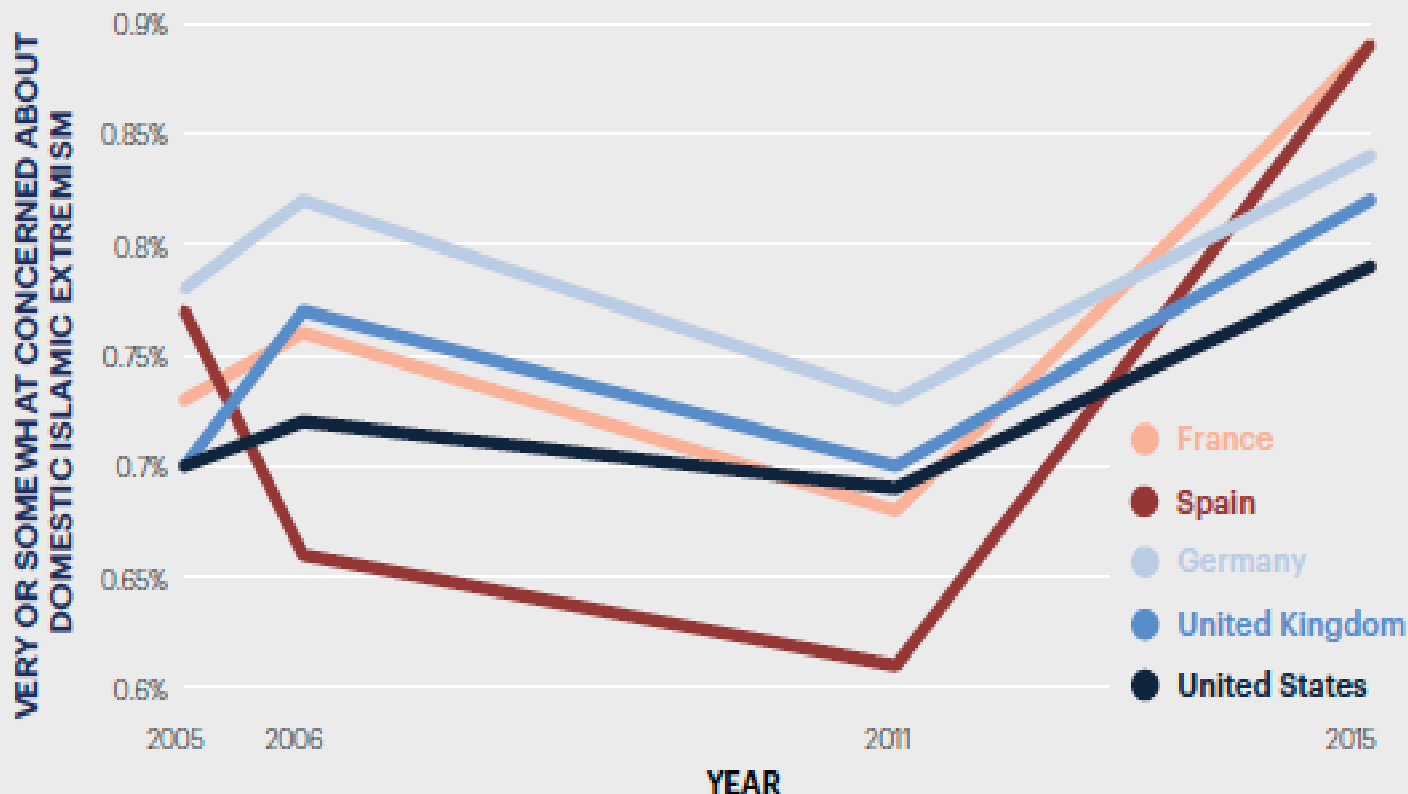
Lone wolf terrorist attacks in the West were largely confined to seven countries: Norway, United States, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Canada and Australia. Out of the 38 countries in the West, 11 countries had deaths from lone wolf terrorism and 19 had at least one lone wolf terrorist incident.



Source: IEP Lone Wolf Database, START GTD

Western Public Concern over Domestic Islamic Terrorism: 2005-2014: Pew Trust

Concern about domestic Islamic extremism has increased to the highest levels in 2015.



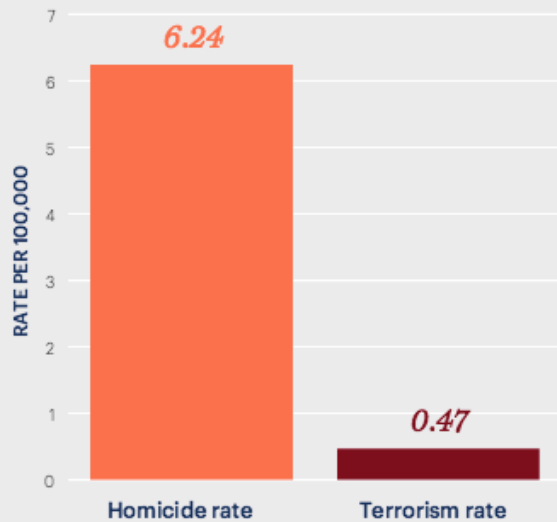
Source: Pew

Terrorism vs. Criminal Violence in the West

Homicide vs. Terrorism

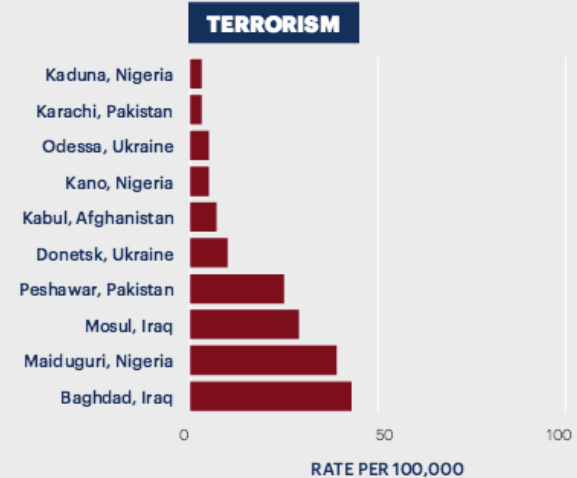
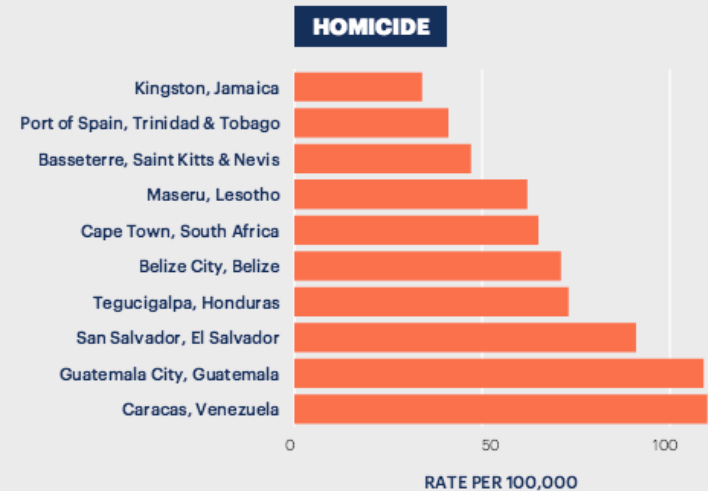
FIGURE 7 GLOBAL HOMICIDE RATE (2012)
VS GLOBAL TERRORISM RATE (2014),
PER 100,000 PEOPLE

The homicide rate is 13 times the terrorism rate. This means that for every one person killed from terrorism in 2014 there were 13 people who were victims of homicide.



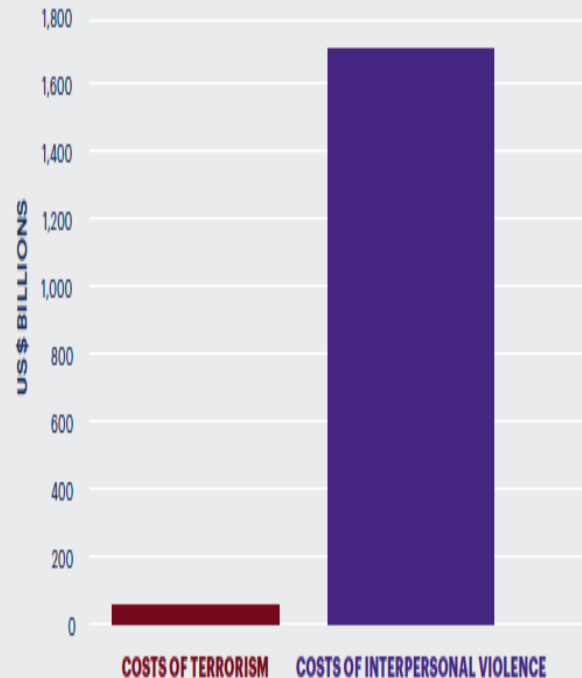
CITIES WITH HIGHEST HOMICIDE RATE (AVERAGE 2001-2010)
COMPARED TO CITIES WITH HIGHEST TERRORISM RATE (2014)

The cities with the highest homicide rates have more than double the death rate than the cities with the highest terrorism rates. This highlights that there are types of violence that result in more deaths than terrorism.

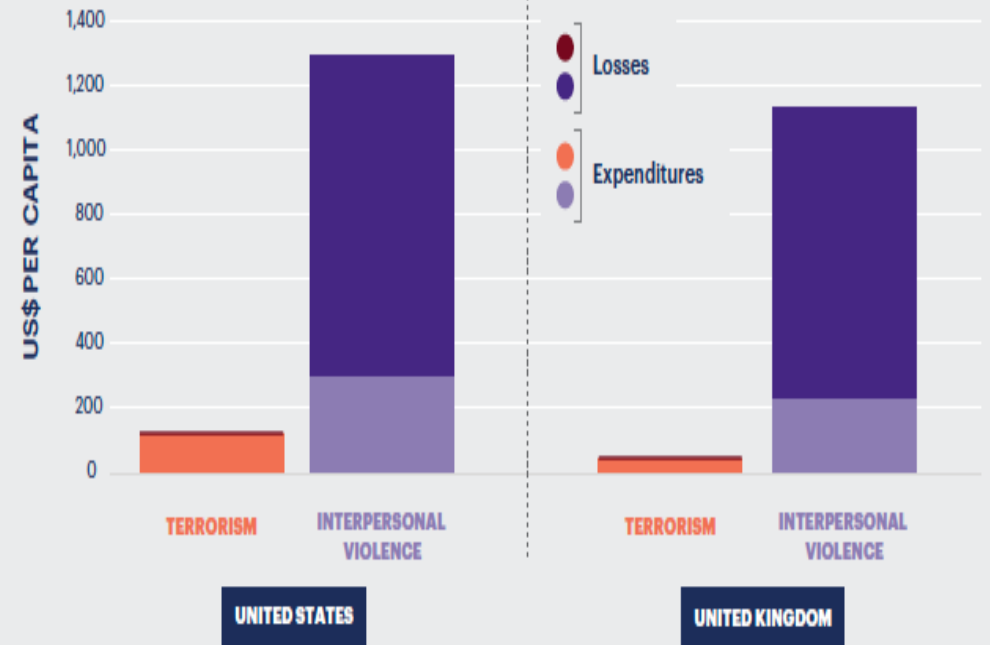


Cost of Terrorism vs. Interpersonal Violence

Terrorism is not the most costly form of violence. Interpersonal violence costs 32 times more and accounts for 13 times more violent deaths.



In 2014 counter terrorism expenditure in the United States and the United Kingdom was 186 and 263 times larger than the losses incurred. In contrast, the cost of interpersonal violence is three to four times higher than expenditure for both countries.



Source: IEP Calculations

Costs for terrorism were taken from the portion of security agency costs which are allocated to counterterrorism programs. This is 44 per cent in the US as per Stewart, Ellingwood and Mueller (2011) and 81 per cent in the UK as per MI5's budget. The calculation does not take into account the costs from the Department of Homeland Security in the US. The costs of interpersonal violence are calculated from IEP's economic costs of violence methodology. This takes into account the costs of homicide and violent crime. The expenditure on interpersonal violence is only a measure of the costs of police. All estimations are converted to per capita terms using population data from the IMF.

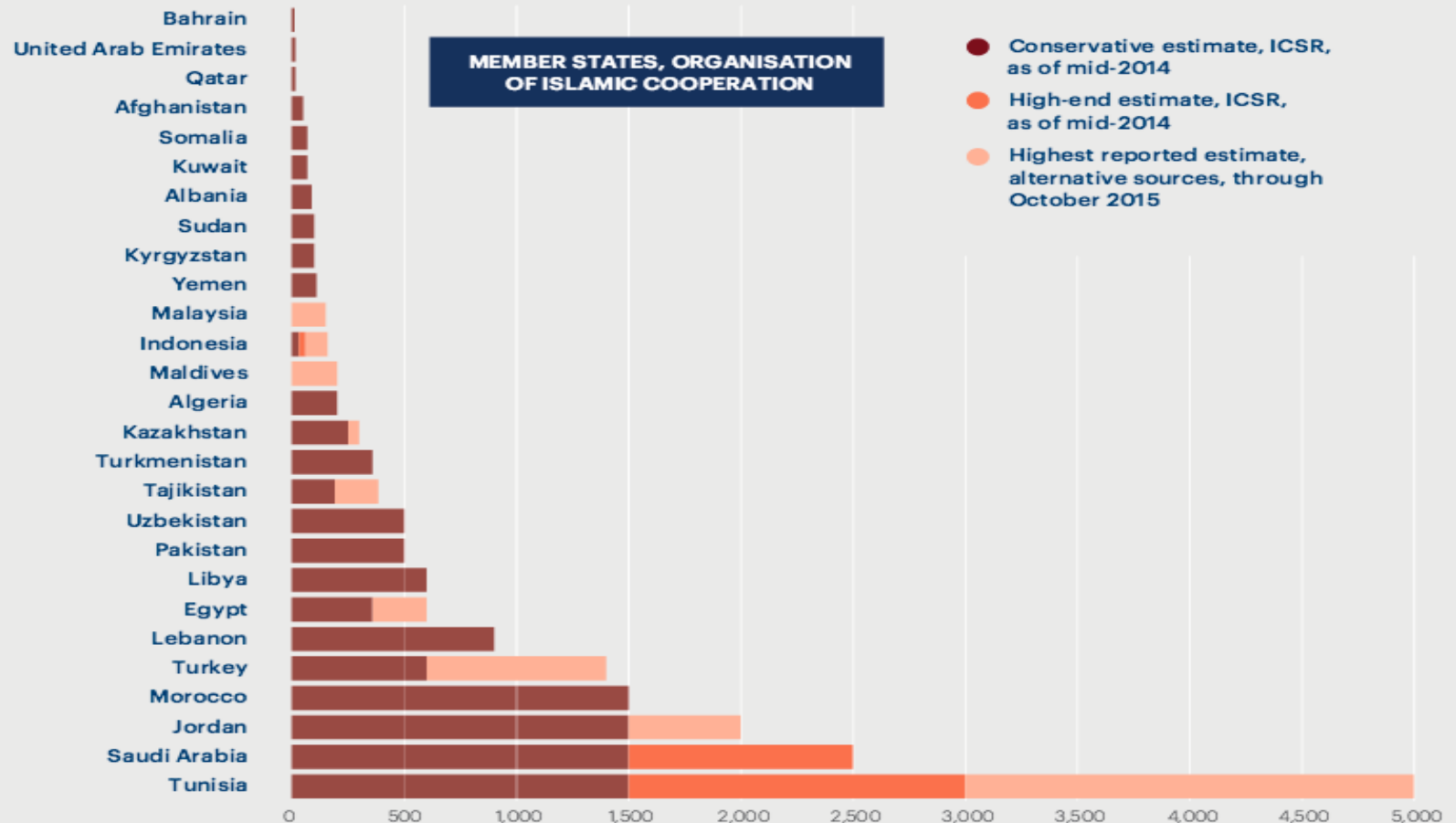
Foreign Volunteers

(No reliable estimates exist, and most are dated and only include ISIS. U.S. estimates as of September 2015 put total for ISIS at a nominal 30,000)

Uncertain Foreign Fighter Numbers: 2014 to 2015 - I

FOREIGN FIGHTERS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA FROM ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION COUNTRIES, 2015

The majority of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria come from neighbouring Middle Eastern and North African states, as well as Turkey. Tunisia has the greatest number of departing foreign fighters of any country in the world.

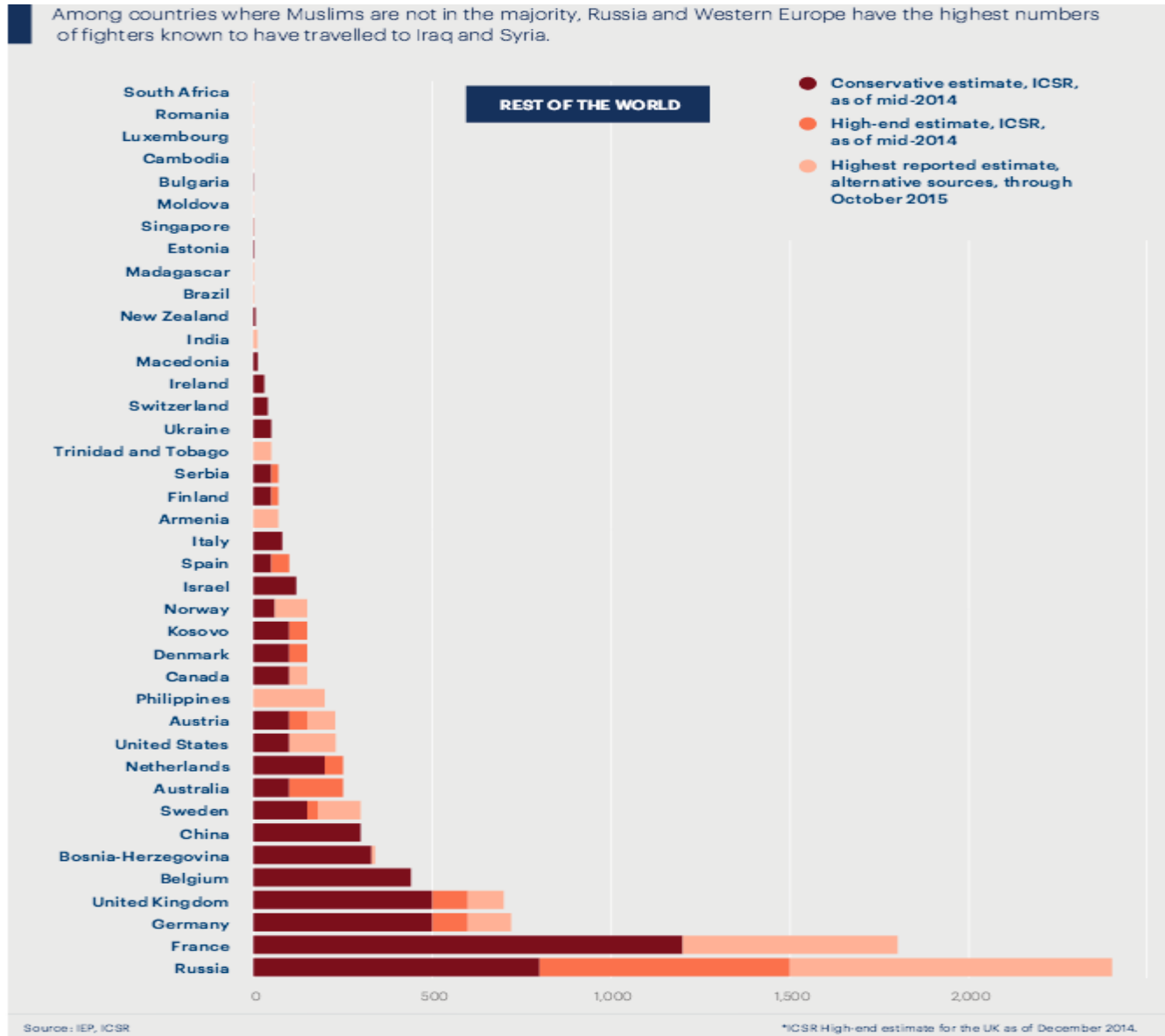


Source: IEP, ICSR

*ICSR High-end estimate for the UK as of December 2014.

NOTE: Estimates represent the best available figure for the number of fighters who have ever left the country, to join any armed group, including but not limited to ISIL. These figures do not reflect those who may have been arrested, been killed or have returned to their country of origin. See Annex D for more data sources.

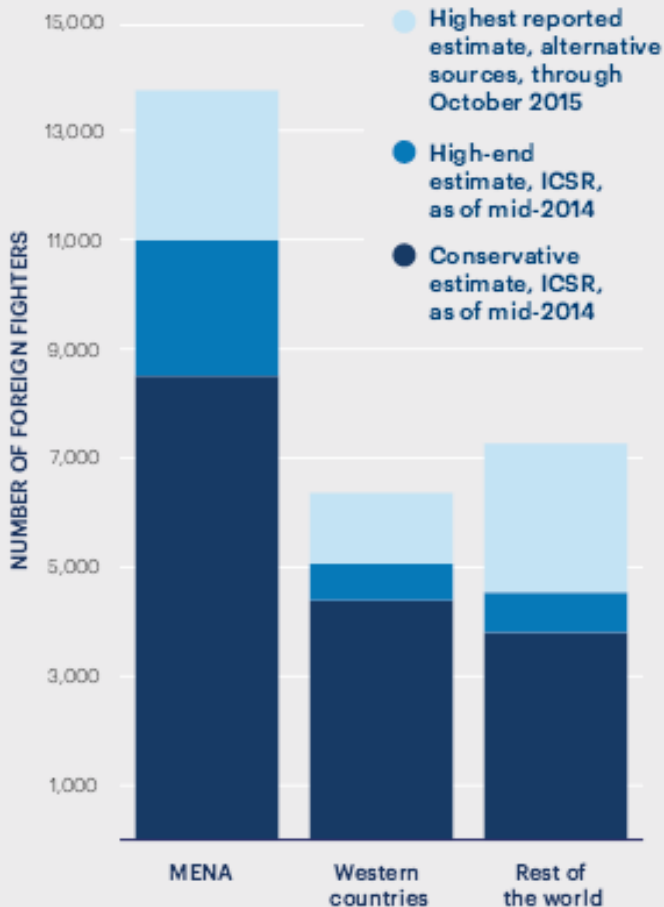
Uncertain Foreign Fighter Numbers: 2014 to 2015 - II



NOTE: Estimates represent the best available figure for the number of fighters who have ever left the country, to join any armed group, including but not limited to ISIL. These figures do not reflect those who may have been arrested, been killed or have returned to their country of origin. See Annex D for more data sources.

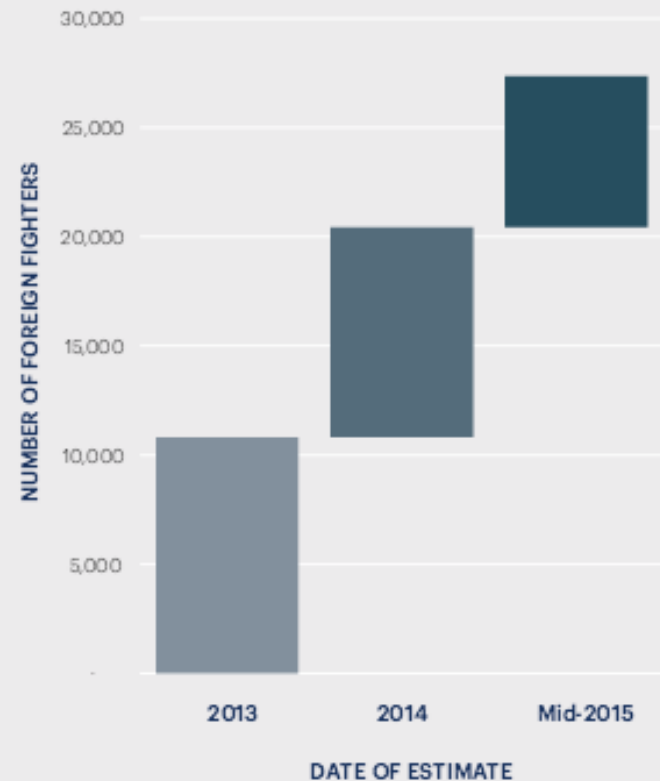
Foreign Fighters in Iraq and Syria: 2013 to 2015

The majority of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria come from the Middle East and North Africa. Western countries include Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia.



Source: IEP, ICSR

The total number of foreign fighters believed to have joined armed groups in Iraq and Syria more than doubled from December 2013 to October 2015. Figures are cumulative totals. Numbers are estimates only based on IEP calculations from a variety of sources.



Source: IEP, ICSR

Wikipedia Estimate of Foreign Fighters: 9/2015

Number of nationals fighting for ISIL [edit]

Note List does not include nationals of Iraq and Syria (except for nationals of Iraqi Kurdistan).

Note According to jihadist ideologues, 90% of its fighters in Iraq are Iraqi and 70% of its fighters in Syria are Syrian.^[19]

-  Saudi Arabia: 7,000^[54]
-  Tunisia: 2,400–5,000^{[51][54]}
-  Russia: 2,400^[55]
-  Morocco: 1,500^[56]–2,000^[57]
-  Jordan: 1,500^{[56][58]}
-  United Kingdom: 500–1,500^{[59][60]}
-  France: 1,200^[56]
-  Turkey: 600^[56]–1,000^[50]
-  Lebanon: 900^[56]
-  Libya: 600^[56]
-  Germany: 500–600^[56]
-  Egypt: 360^[56]–600^[61]
-  Iraqi Kurdistan: 85–600^[62]
-  Indonesia: 514^[63]
-  Pakistan: 500^[56]
-  Uzbekistan: 500^[56]
-  Belgium: 440^[56]
-  Turkmenistan: 360^{[56][64]}
-  Bosnia and Herzegovina: 330^[56]
-  China: 300^{[56][65]}
-  Azerbaijan: 100–300^[66]
-  Australia: 250^[56]
-  Kazakhstan: 250^[56]
-  Netherlands: 200–250^[56]
-  Kyrgyzstan: 100^[56]–200^[67]
-  Algeria: 200^[56]
-  Kosovo: 200^{[68][69]}
-  Philippines: 200^[70]
-  Tajikistan: 190^[56]
-  Sweden: 150–180^[56]
-  Austria: 100–150^[56]
-  Denmark: 100–150^[56]
-  South Africa: 140^[71]
-  Yemen: 110^[56]
-  Canada: 100^[56]–130^[72]
-  Sudan: 100^[56]
-  United States: 100^{[49][56]}
-  Georgia: 50–100^[73]
-  Spain: 50–100^[56]
-  Albania: 90^[56]
-  Italy: 80^[56]
-  Palestine: 70–80^[74]
-  Kuwait: 70^[56]
-  Somalia: 70^[56]
-  Finland: 50–70^[56]
-  Serbia: 50–70^[56]
-  Norway: 60^[56]
-  Afghanistan: 50^[56]
-  Iran: 50^[75]
-  Ukraine: 50^[56]
-  Israel: 40–50^[76]
-  Switzerland: 40^[56]
-  New Zealand: 6^[56]–40^[77]
-  Ireland: 30^[56]
-  Malaysia: 20–30^[78]
-  India: 18–20^{[79][80]}
-  Qatar: 15^[56]
-  United Arab Emirates: 15^[56]
-  Bahrain: 12^[56]
-  Portugal: 12^[81]
-  Macedonia: 12^[56]
-  Japan: 9^[82]
-  Poland: 6–8^[83]
-  Maldives: +7^[14]
-  Croatia: 2^[84]
-  Singapore: 2^[85]
-  Ghana: 2^[86]
-  South Korea: 1^[87]
-  Latvia: 1^[88]
-  Estonia: 1^[89]

Wikipedia Estimate of Groups affiliated to ISIS/ISIL: 9/2015

- **Algeria:** Wilayat Algeria formed from Jund al-Khilafah after it pledged allegiance to ISIL. Wilayat Barqa formed from the Shura Council of Islamic Youth
- **Libya:** Some militants formerly associated with Ansar al-Sharia in Libya also pledged allegiance to ISIL
- **Egypt:** Wilayat Sinai formed from the majority of the membership of Ansar Bait al-Maqdis
- **Yemen:** Wilayat Sanaa formed from a faction of Ansar al-Sharia who pledged allegiance to ISIL.
- **Pakistan and Afghanistan:** Wilayat Khorasan formed from the allegiance of militants from groups based in Pakistan and Afghanistan, including Jundallah, Tehreek-e-Khilafat, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and dissident commanders formerly associated with Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan.
- **Northeastern Nigeria, Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon:** Wilayat Gharb Afriqiya formed from Boko Haram pledging allegiance to ISIL.
- **Chechnya and Dagestan:** Wilayat Qawqaz formed from dissident militants of the Caucasus Emirate in Chechnya and Dagestan who switched their allegiance to ISIL.
- **Palestinian:** Militants of the group Army of the Islamic State (Palestinian Territories) pledged allegiance to ISIL.
- **Philippines, Malaysia:** Militants of the group Abu Sayyaf pledged allegiance to ISIL.
- **Saudi Arabia:** Unidentified militants in Saudi Arabia – designated as provinces of ISIL.
- **Jordan:** Militants of the group Sons of the Call for Tawhid and Jihad (Jordan) pledged allegiance to ISIL.
- **Lebanon:** Militants of the group Free Sunnis of Baalbek Brigade pledged allegiance to ISIL
- **Maldives:** The group Islamic State of the Maldives pledged allegiance to ISIL in July 2014.