

Trends in European Terrorism: 1970-2016

Anthony H. Cordesman

acordesman@gmail.com

Burke Chair
in Strategy



Working Draft

Updated August 18, 2017

Table of Contents

Introduction	3-7
Western and Eastern Europe	8-11
Western Europe	12-22
Key Target Countries in Western Europe	23-35
EU and Europol	36-49
Russia and the Ukraine	50-57

Introduction

This report provides summary statistical data on the trends in Western and Eastern Europe. It focuses on START and IHS Jane's data, but also includes data from other sources – including the one useful current official source on terrorism in the world that presents declassified official data. This is the annual report on terrorism which is issued by Europol and the EU.

If one looks at the START data on the total for Western and Eastern Europe, which includes Russia, the impact of terrorism peaks in the 1970s. It rises again in 1991, driven by terrorist attacks in the Balkans, Palestinian violence, and terrorism in the FSU and Russia. It then peaks for a third time in 2014-2015, driven by both violent Islamist extremism and terrorist activity in the Ukraine.

A chart in this section also illustrates how limited the terrorist threat has so far been in both the U.S and Western Europe since 2011 relative to the terrorist threat elsewhere in the world, particularly in areas where Jihadists are attacking fellow Muslims.

Making regional comparisons is difficult because given sources define Europe differently and include or exclude Russia and parts of Eastern Europe. If one only examines Western Europe, the START reporting on the patterns in Western Europe shows a rise in incidents after 2010, driven largely by violent Islamist extremism and the influence and actions of ISIS, that reached new peaks in 2015-2016. Belgium, France, Germany, and the UK were key targets of such attacks. Turkey was a key center of terrorist attacks because of political unrest and Kurdish separatism in the late 1970s, late 1980s to mid-1990s, and then again from mid-2015 onwards.

Once again, the report shows that the IHS Jane's data provide a very different set of estimates. It should be stressed that this would be the same with all of the independent estimates that create a separate data base and drawn on a different mix of set of sources. The use of open source material imposes major additional limits on what any analytic effort can do.

The Europol/EU data provide key insights into the correlation between terrorism and counterterrorist activity lacking in other regions of the world. It also clearly distinguishes between Islamist extremist violence

and other forms of terrorism:

- In 2016 a total of 142 failed, foiled, and completed attacks were reported by eight Member States. More than half (76) of them were by the UK². France reported 23 attacks, Italy 17, Spain 10, Greece 6, Germany 5, Belgium 4, and Netherlands 1.
- Of the 142 attacks, less than half (47) were completed. Member States reported that 142 victims died because of terrorist attacks and 379 people were injured.
- Nearly all reported fatalities and most of the casualties were the result of jihadist terrorist attacks. The total number of 142 attacks is a continuation of a downward trend that started in 2014 when there were 226 attacks, followed by 211 in 2015.
- The largest number of attacks in which the terrorist affiliation could be identified were carried out by ethno-nationalist and separatist extremists (99). Attacks carried out by left-wing violent extremists have been on the rise since 2014; they reached a total of 27 in 2016, of which most (16) were reported by Italy.
- The number of jihadist terrorist attacks decreased from 17 in 2015 to 13 in 2016, of which 6 were linked to the so-called Islamic State (IS). However, a precise ranking amongst and within terrorist affiliations across the EU cannot be established because the UK does not provide disaggregated data on attacks.
- Explosives were used in 40% of the attacks, with similar numbers to 2015.
- The use of firearms dropped considerably from 57 in 2015 to 6 in 2016.
- Apart from jihadist, ethno-nationalist and left-wing extremist attacks, an increasing stream of violent assaults by right-wing extremist individuals and groups was noted across Europe, in particular over the past two years, targeting asylum seekers and ethnic minorities in general.
- These assaults however do not generally qualify as terrorism and are therefore not included in the numbers of terrorist attacks being reported by Member States, with only one exception in 2016, reported by the Netherlands.
- Most arrests were related to jihadist terrorism, for which the numbers rose for the third consecutive year: 395 in 2014, 687 in 2015 and 718 in 2016.

- Numbers of arrests for left-wing and separatist terrorist offences dropped to half of what they were in 2015 (from 67 and 168 in 2015 to 31 and 84 in 2016 respectively).
- Numbers of arrests for rightwing terrorism remained low at 12 in 2016, compared to 11 in 2015.
- France is the only Member State in which the overall numbers of arrests continue to increase: from 238 in 2014, to 424 in 2015, and to 456 in 2016.
- Almost one-third of arrestees (291) were 25 years old or younger. Only one in ten arrestees (9%) in 2016 was older than 40 years.
- Arrests for terrorist activities (preparing, financing, assisting, attempting, or executing attacks) decreased from 209 in 2015 to 169 in 2016.
- Arrests for travelling to conflict zones for terrorist purposes also decreased: from 141 in 2015 to 77 in 2016. This was similar to the decrease in numbers of arrests of people returning from the conflict zones in Syria and Iraq: from 41 in 2015 to 22 in 2016.

The Europol/EU report also provides a detailed summary analysis of the patterns in Islamist attacks lacking in the public reporting by all other countries and regions:

...The threat of jihadist terrorism is not perceived equally amongst Member States, of which the majority have not been confronted with jihadist terrorist activities at all in 2016, nor in one of the preceding years. These countries might be used for transiting of foreign terrorist fighters, (potential) jihadists or returnees, or unintentionally providing for a safe haven for them. These and other factors, however, including perceived insults to Islam, may influence potential risks. Switzerland for instance, not being an EU Member State and not being part of a coalition against IS, is aware of its vulnerability to jihadist terrorism by association with other Western countries and its international profile.

...As military pressure on IS increased and measures to prevent potential recruits from reaching IS-controlled territory became more effective, IS adapted its recruitment tactics. It now declared that perpetrating a terrorist attack in the West was even preferable to travelling to join IS.

The increased efforts to incite IS sympathizers in the West to perpetrate attacks were reflected in practical guidance for

lone actor attacks provided in IS publications. The IS multi-language magazine Rumiyah18 contained a series of articles under the title “Just Terror Tactics”, which suggested terrorist attacks using knives, vehicles or arson, and gave tips on how to maximize the numbers of victims and impact. Perpetrators were admonished to leave some kind of evidence stating the motivation of the attack and allegiance to IS, such as a note attached to the victim’s body or a last will.

In 2016 IS preferred to claim lone actor attacks through its A’maq News Agency...The increased efforts by IS to directly recruit vulnerable people via social media and incite them to perpetrate terrorist acts in their country of residence, seem to not be limited to male targets.

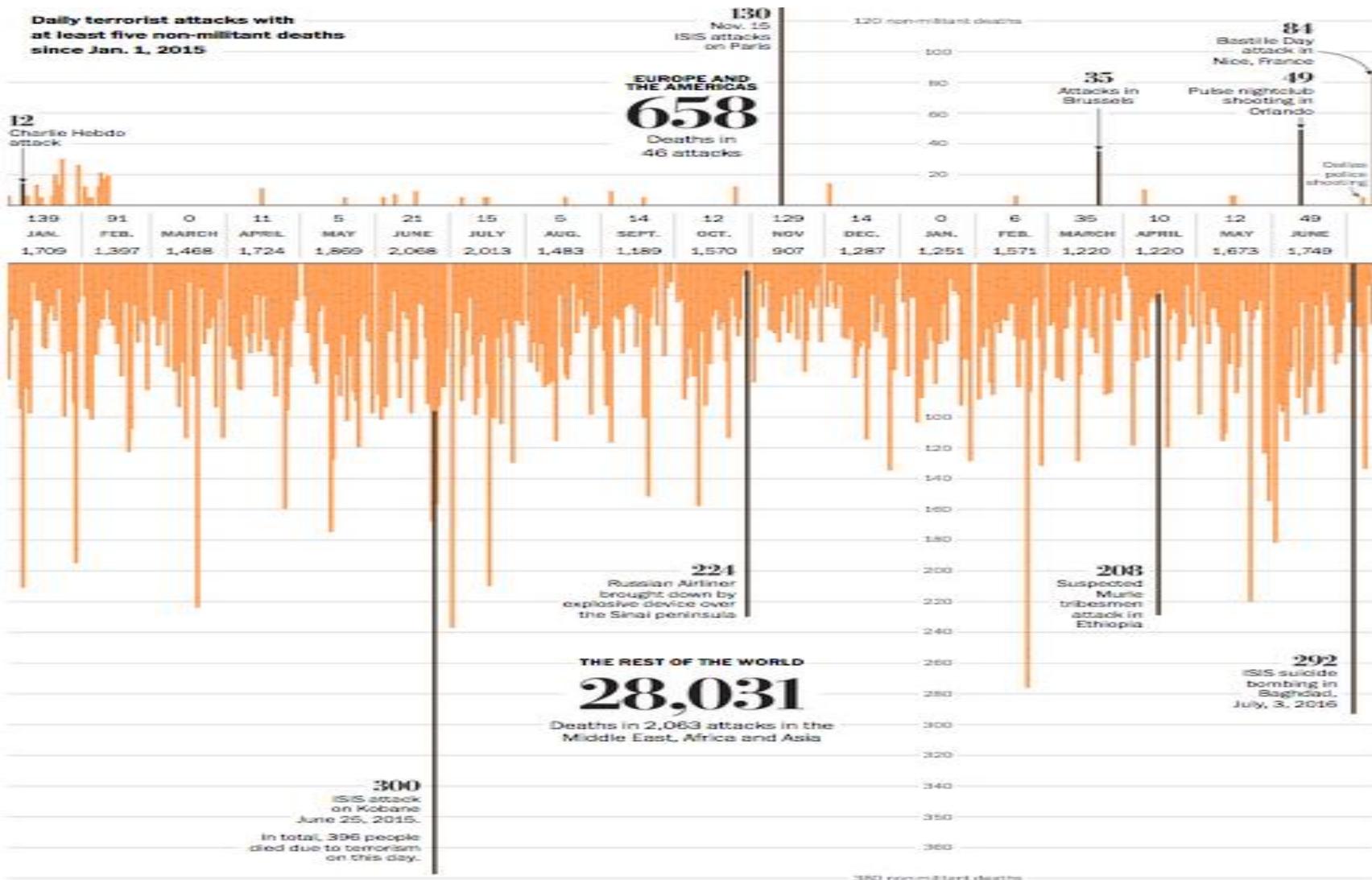
...In 2012, already before the emergence of IS, al-Qaeda had redesigned its strategy to ensure its survival under the changed political circumstances following the Arab rebellions: al-Qaeda would merge with the population to the extent possible; cooperate with other Muslim groups based on common interests; and administer territories that fell under its control in a way so as not to alienate the population. The aim was to create safe havens from which al-Qaeda could plan and execute attacks on Western targets. The intransigent behavior of IS toward local populations made the implementation of this new strategy even more pressing for al-Qaeda in an effort to mark the difference to its opponent.

The data on Russia and the Ukraine show exceptionally sharp peaks and valleys in the number of incidents and attacks and their consequences. They highlight yet another area where there is no reporting on state terrorism, although Russia has clearly supported such movements in the Ukraine. There also is no clear separation of terrorism from insurgent activity, although the data on weapon type clearly reflect the impact of warfighting.

Once again, striking differences exist between the START and IHS Jane’s counts – differences illustrated in the examples in the tables for Russia and the Ukraine.

Western and Eastern Europe

Terrorist Attacks in Europe and U.S. versus Rest of the World: January 1, 2015 – July 16, 2016

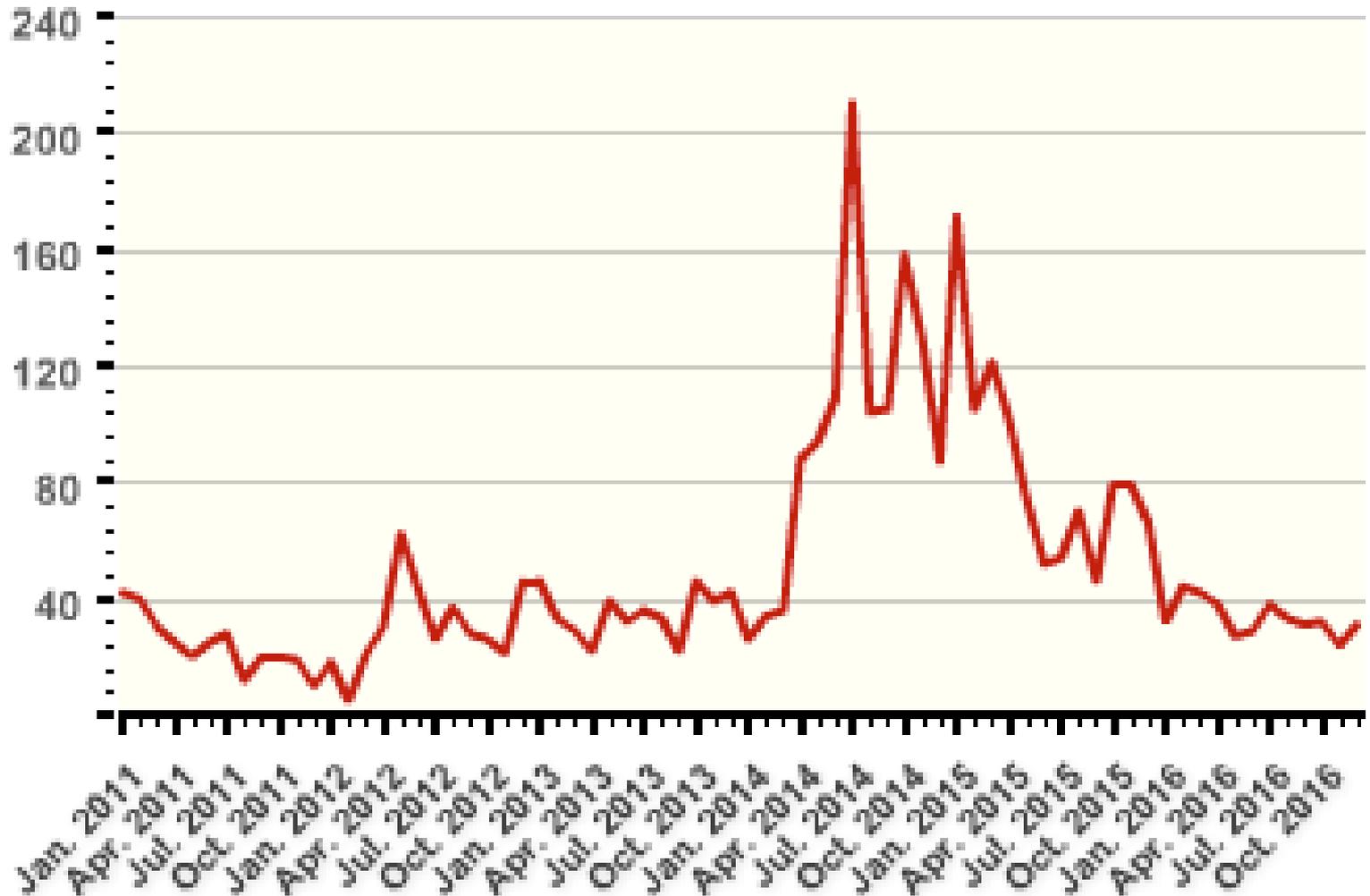


Source: Jane's IHS; [Lazaro Gamio](#) and [Tim Meko](#) "How terrorism in the West compares to terrorism everywhere else, Washington Post," July 17, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/world/the-scale-of-terrorist-attacks-around-the-world/?hpid=hp_no-name_graphic-story-a%3Ahomepage%2Fstory,

Western and Eastern Europe: 2011-2016

(START Database Includes FSU Countries in Eastern Europe)

3,673 Incidents



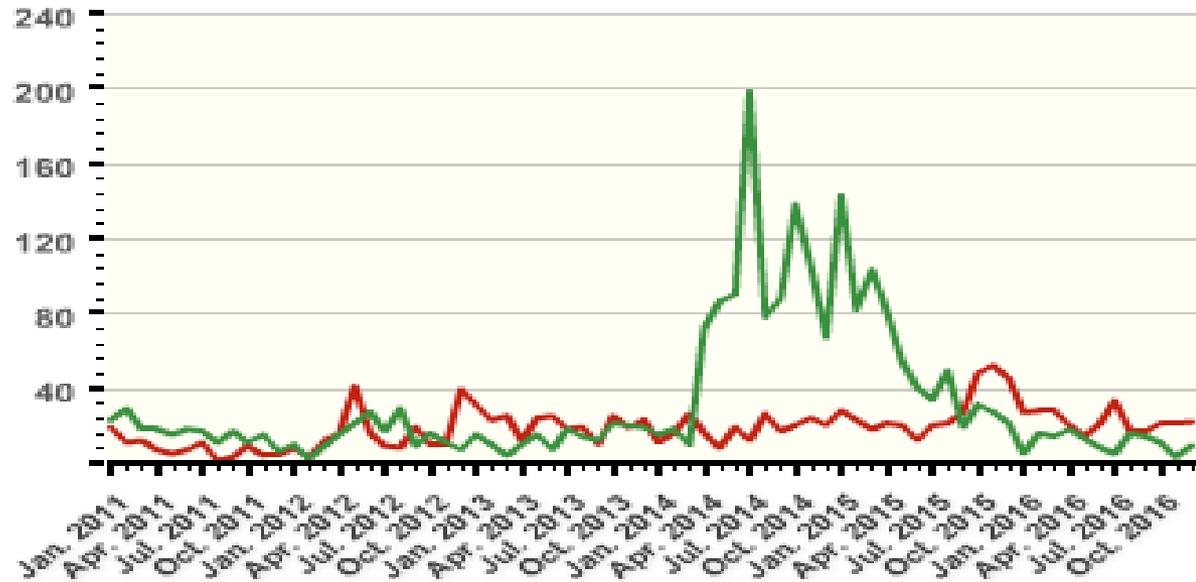
Source: START Data Base,

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

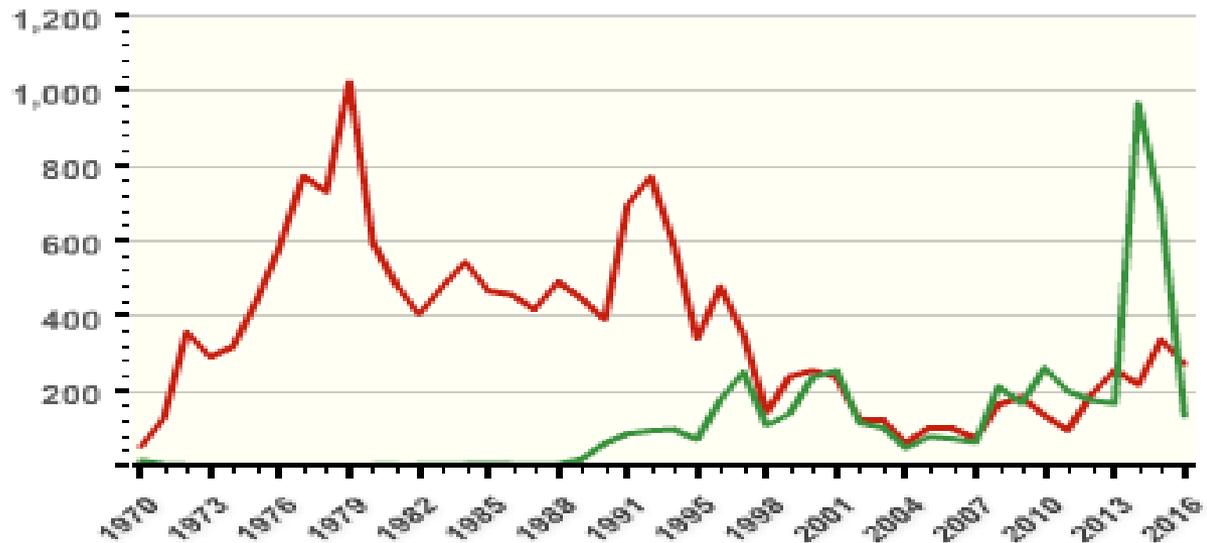
Incidents in Western and East Europe: 1970-2016

2011-2016
3,673 Incidents

Western Europe
Eastern Europe



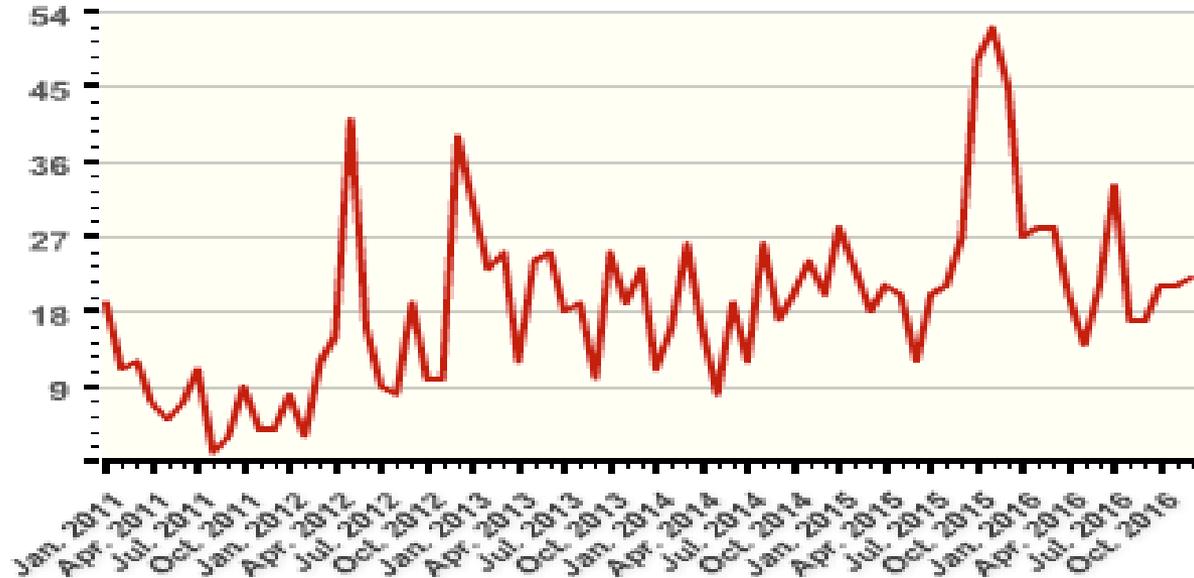
1970-2016
21,338 Incidents



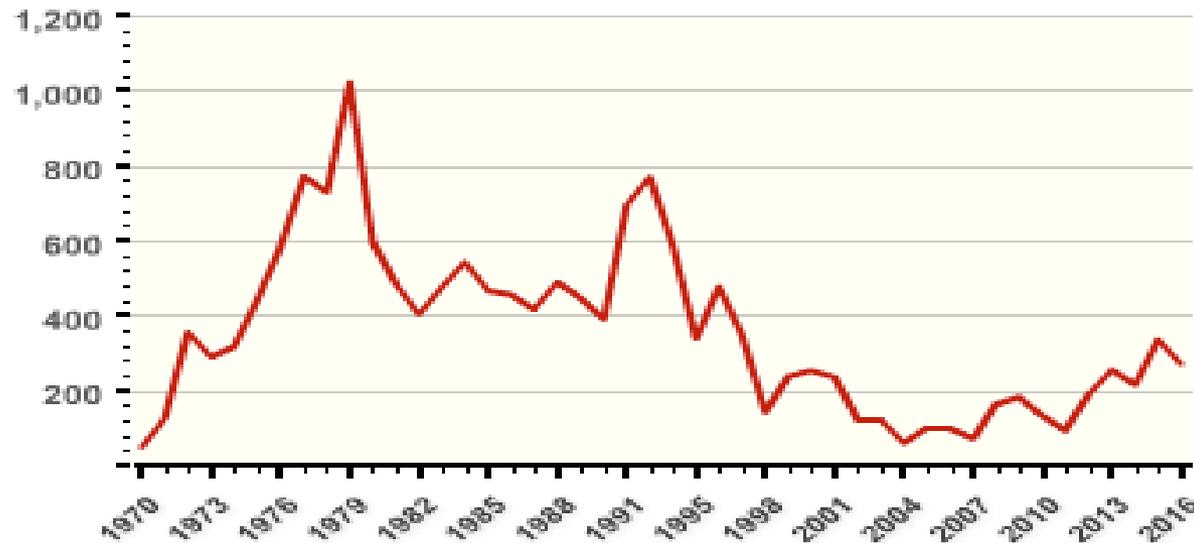
Western Europe

Incidents in Western Europe: 1970-2016

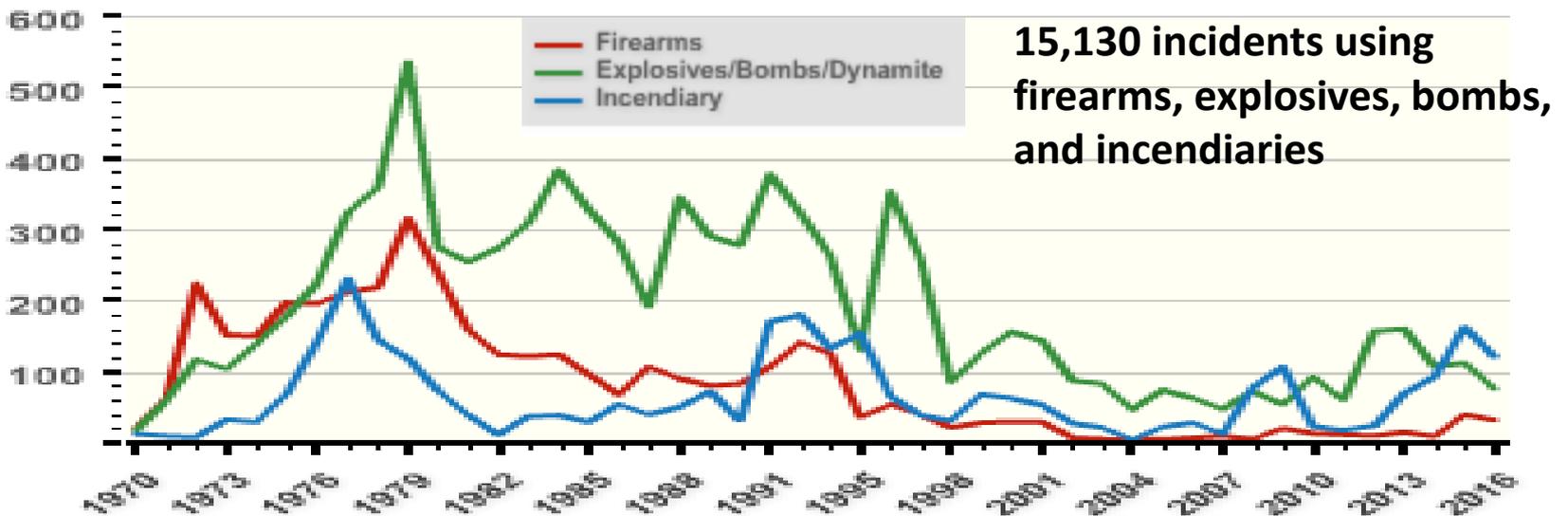
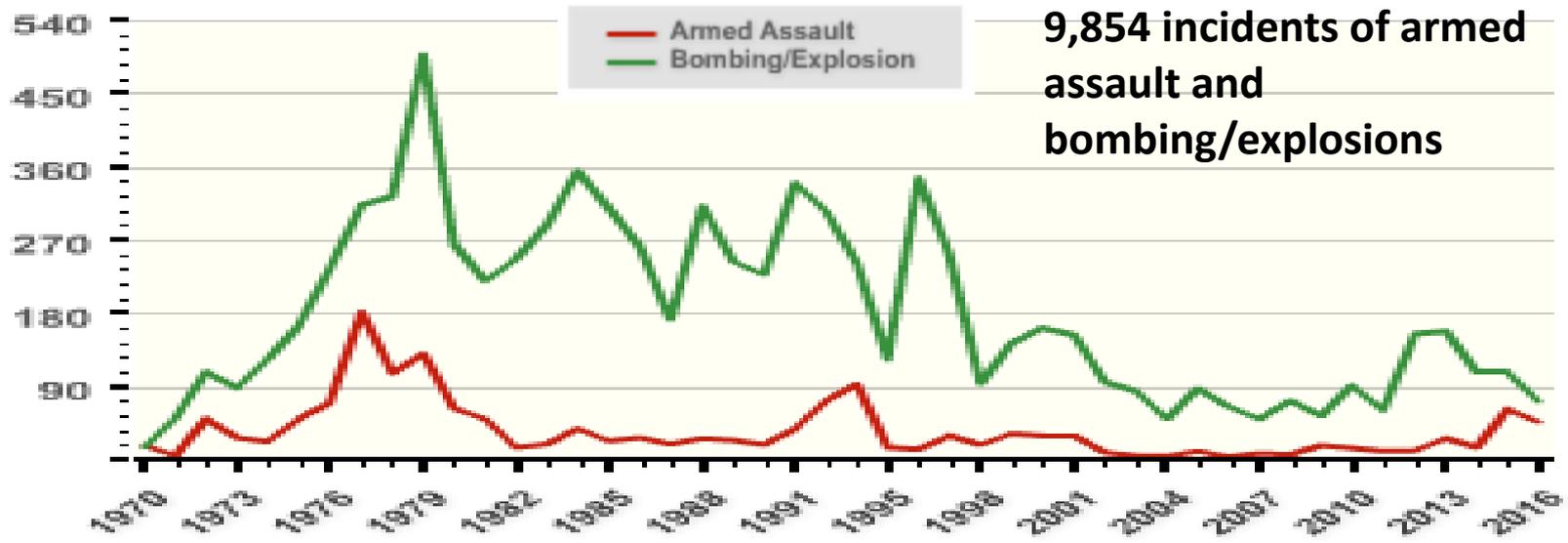
2011-2016
1,356 Incidents



1970-2016
16,307 Incidents



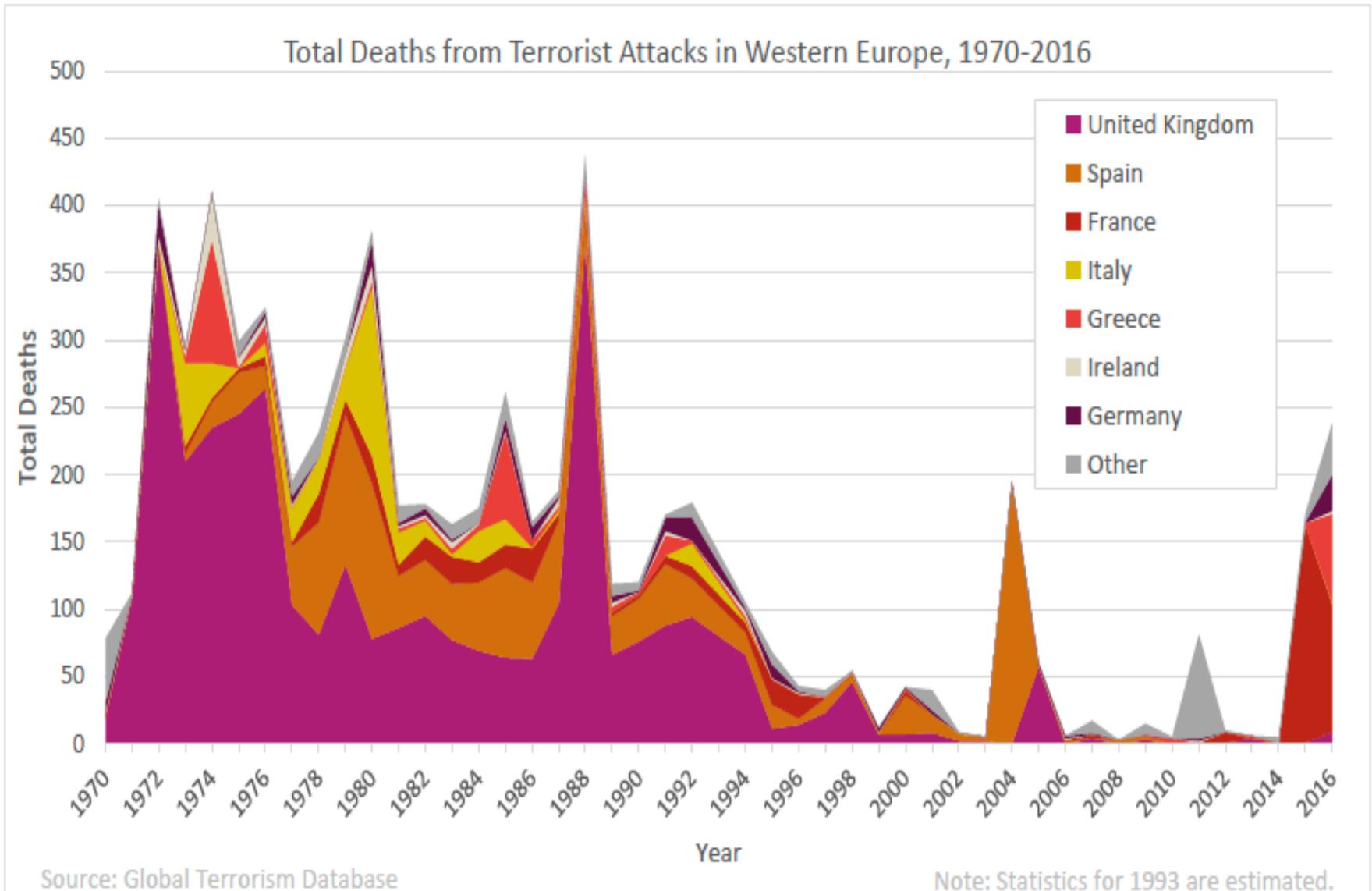
Highly Violent Incidents in Western Europe: 1970-2016



Source: START Data Base, All incidents regardless of doubt.

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?chart=attack&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_yearonly=1970&end_yearonly=2016&ctp2=all®ion=8&weapon=6,5,8&attack=2,3

Western Europe: START Summary 2016 - I



Source: START, Overview: Terrorism in 2016, Background Report, August 2017, <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/15de0bb64b9c59e3>, and https://mail.google.com/_scs/mail-static/_js/k=gmail.main.en.z3kHg2VWLDs.O/m=pds,pdl,pdit,m_i,pdt,t/am=rWAeIN8PAQ4zwNimMwiz_OXT8PDnt_vx9AHhXwDfg39_8EfhwAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAADYovgE/rt=h/d=1/rs=AHGWq9C_vr9eNOceXxK6_-Kw_oxQGxcK_Q.

Western Europe: START Summary 2016 - II

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...

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.

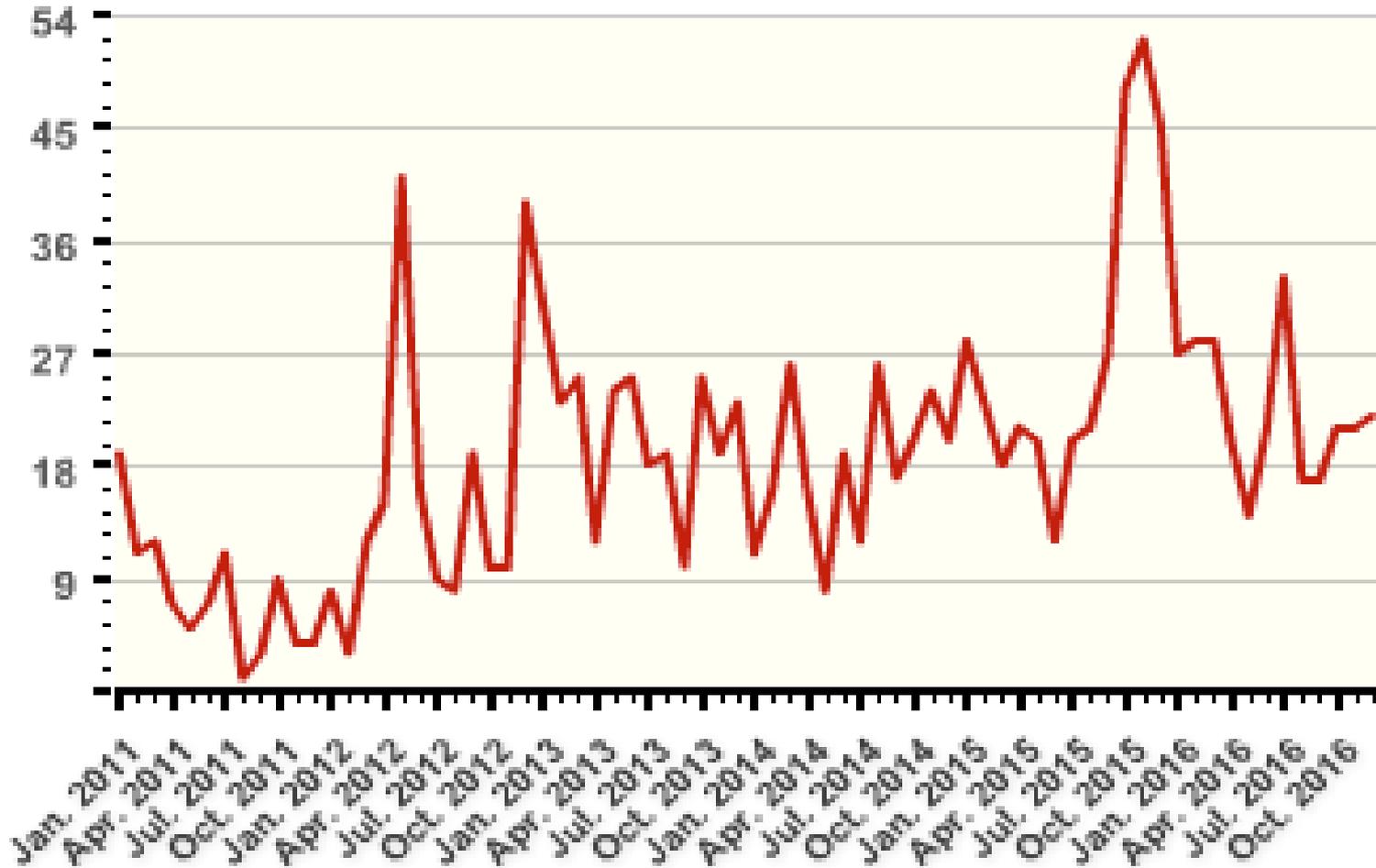
Several terrorist attacks in Western Europe in 2016, including two of the mass-casualty ISIL-related attacks in France and Germany, involved vehicles used as contact weapons (rather than as vehicle-borne IEDs). Although this tactic is not unprecedented, there has been a marked increase in the frequency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

Source: START, Overview: Terrorism in 2016, Background Report, August 2017, <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/15de0bb64b9c59e3>, and https://mail.google.com/_scs/mail-static/_js/k=gmail.main.en.z3kHg2VWLDs.O/m=pds,pdl,pdit,m_i,pdt,t/am=rWAeiN8PAQ4zwNimMwiz_OXT8PDnt-yx9AHhXwDfg39_8EfhwAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAADYovgE/rt=h/d=1/rs=AHGWq9C_vr9eNOceXxK6_-Kw_oxQGxcK_Q.

”

All of Western Europe: 2011-2016

1,356 Incidents

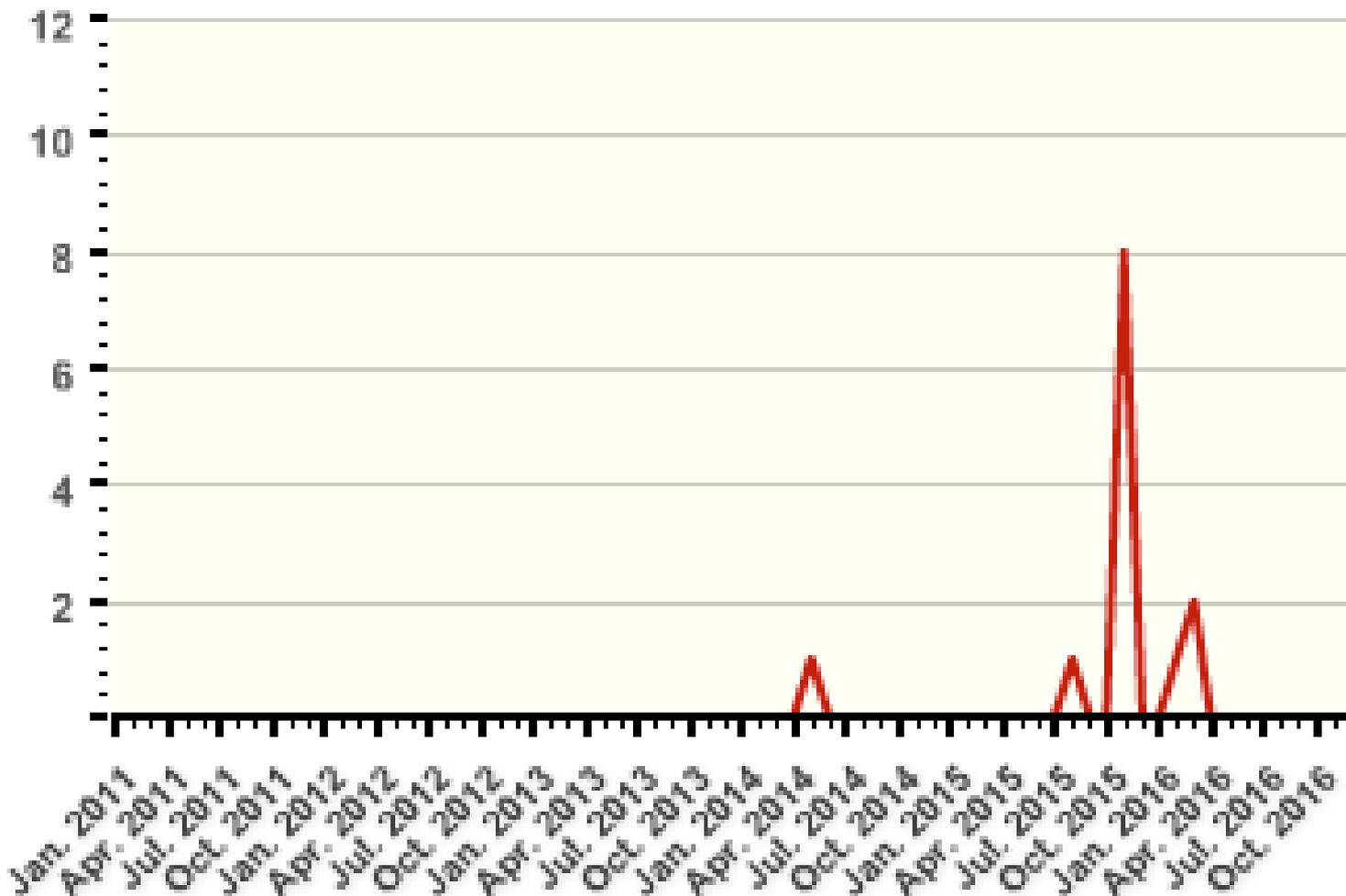


Source: START Data Base,

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

ISIS/ISIL Attacks in All of Western Europe: 2011-2016

13 Incidents

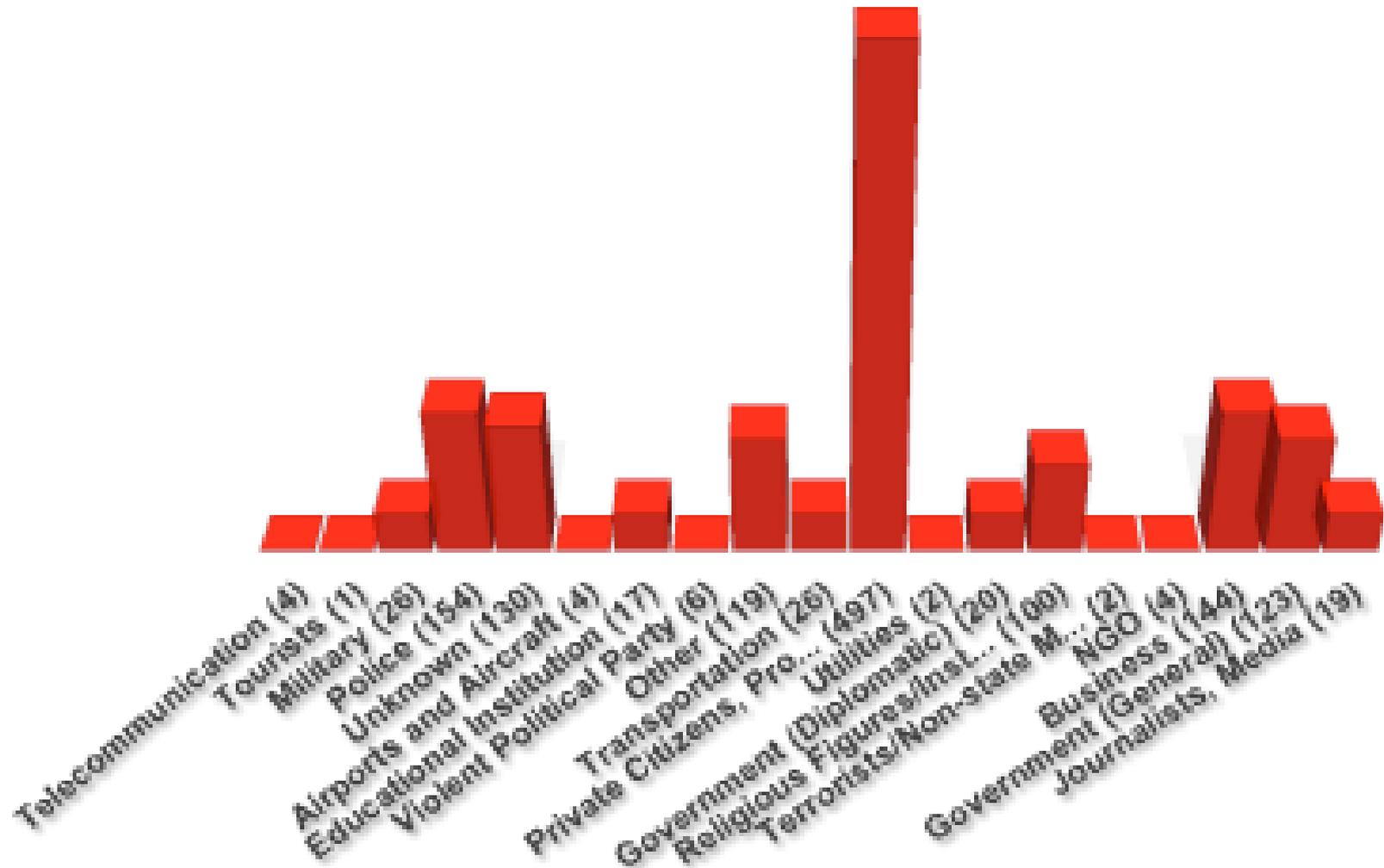


Source: START Data Base,

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

All of Western Europe – Target Type Type: 2011-2016

1,356 Incidents



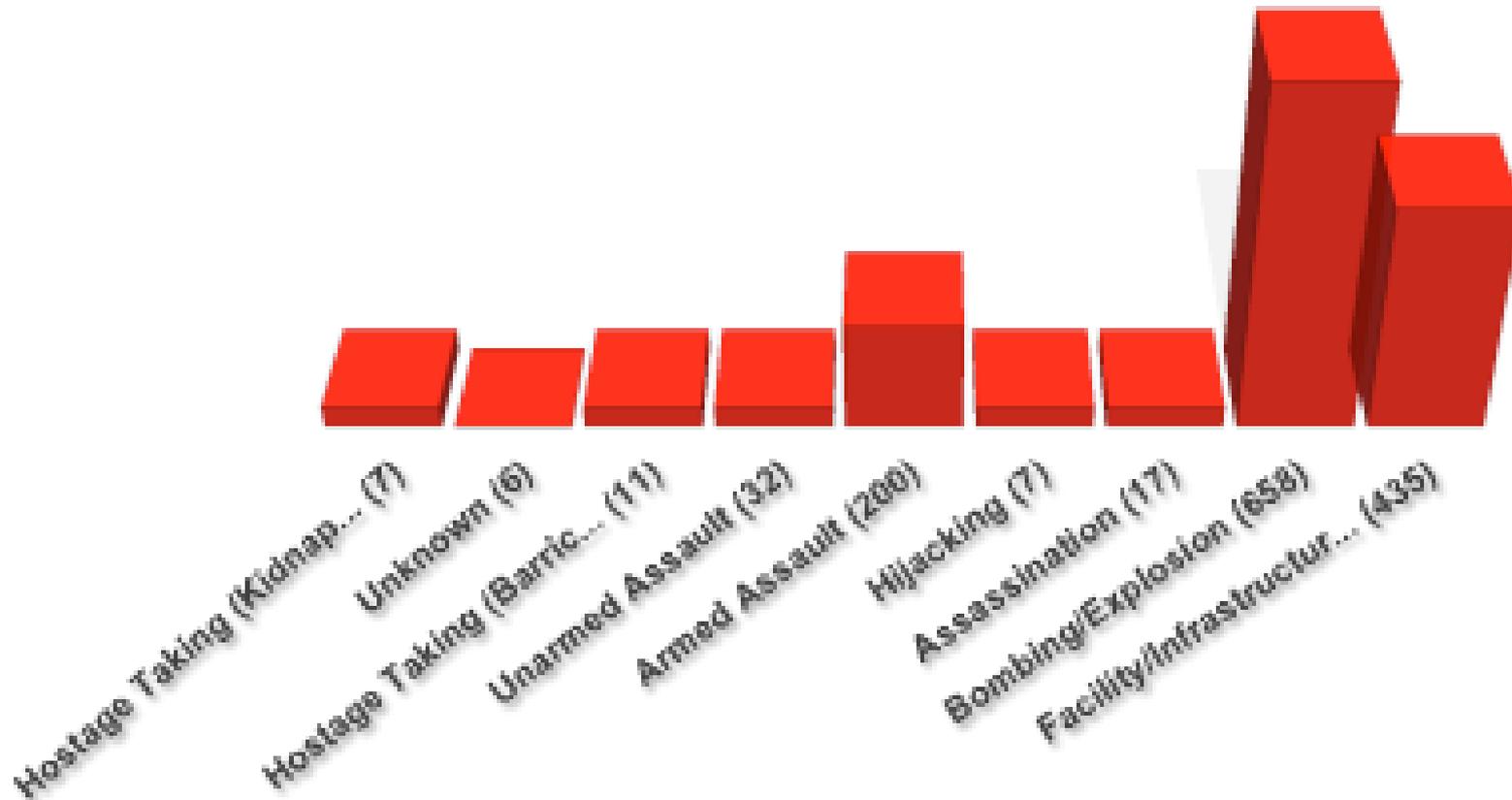
Source: START Data Base,

8/18/2017

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

All of Western Europe – Attack Type: 2011-2016

1,356 Incidents



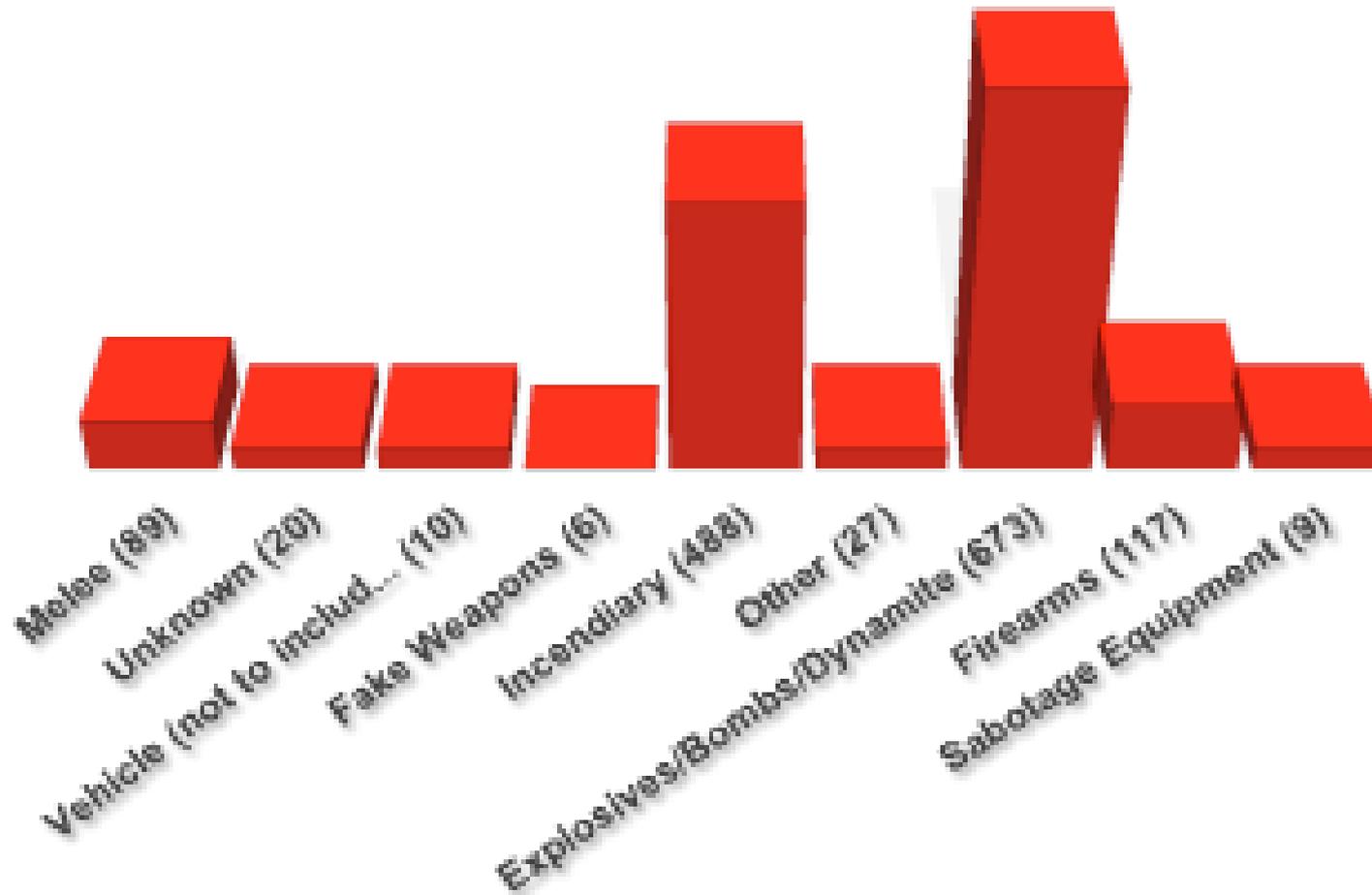
Source: START Data Base,

8/18/2017

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&ntp=all&sAttack=1,0

All of Western Europe – Weapon Type Type: 2011-2016

1,356 Incidents



Source: START Data Base,

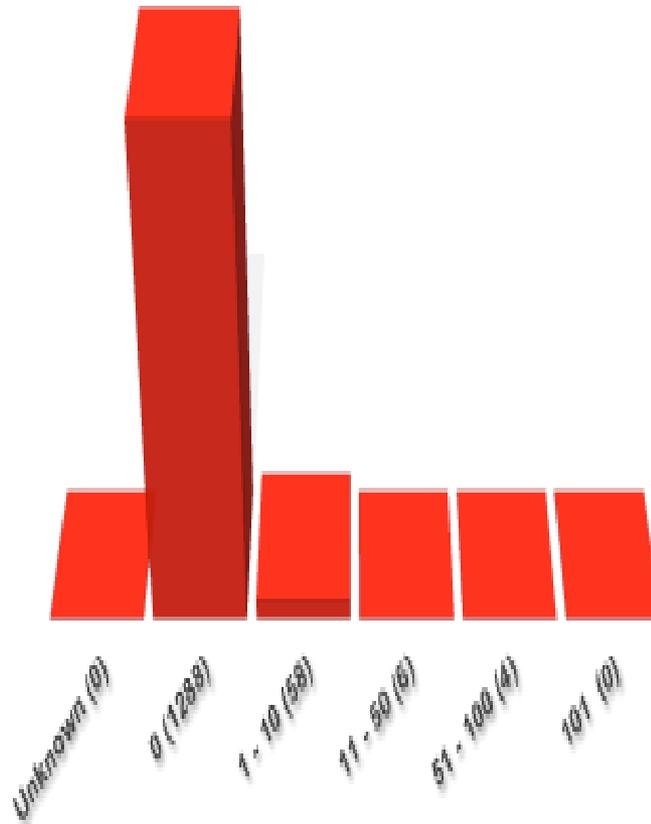
8/18/2017

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&ntp=all&sAttack=1,0

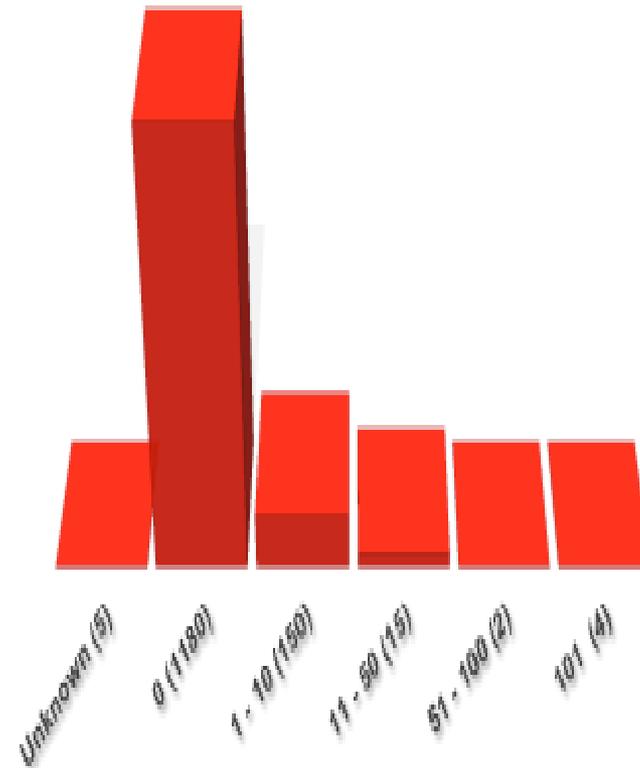
All of Western Europe – Casualties: 2011-2016

1,356 Incidents

Fatalities Per Incident



Injuries Per Incident

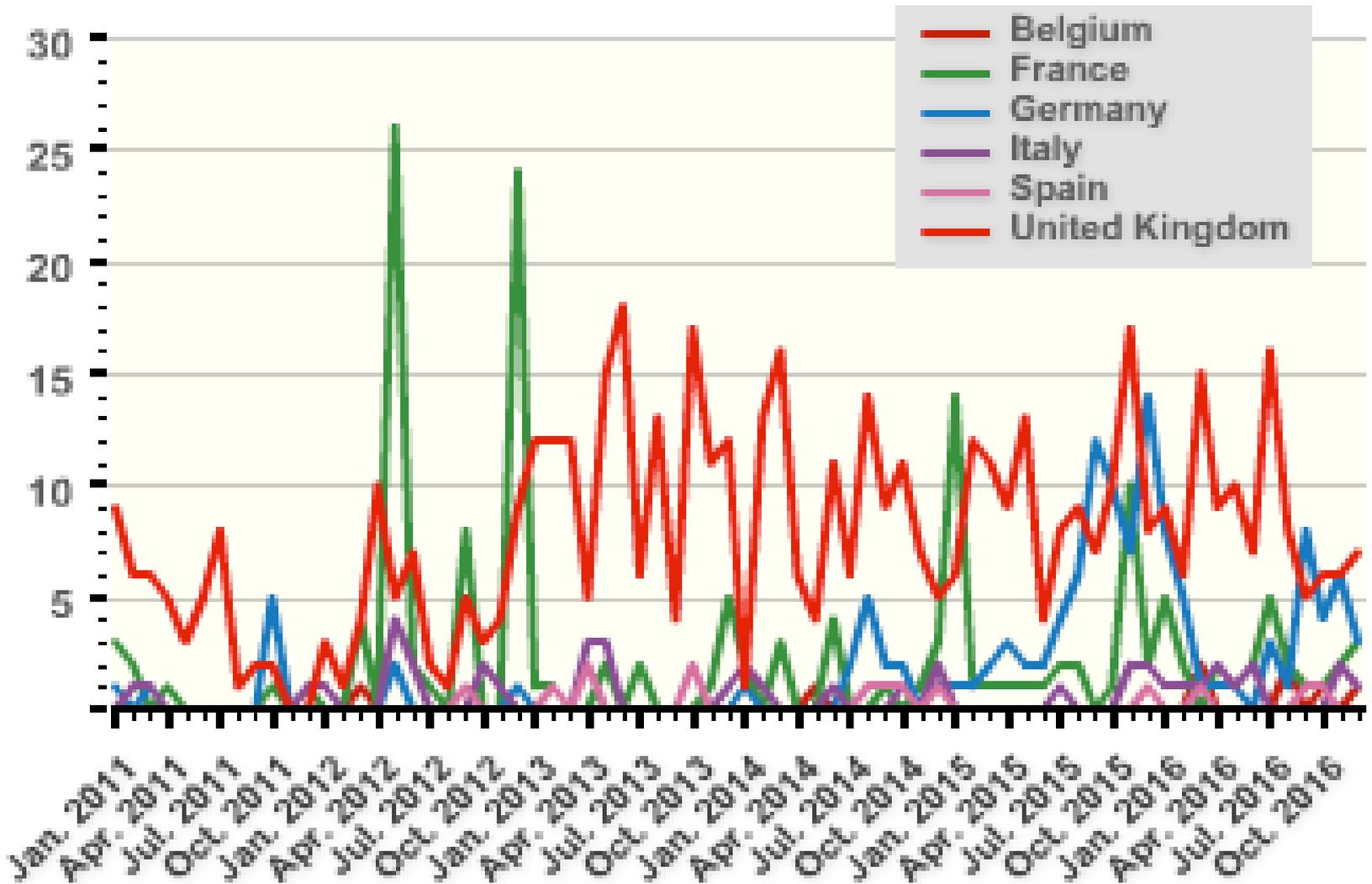


Source: START Data Base,

8/18/2017 http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

Key Target Countries in Western Europe

Western European Incidents by Key Target Country: 2011-2016: UK, France, and Germany Dominate



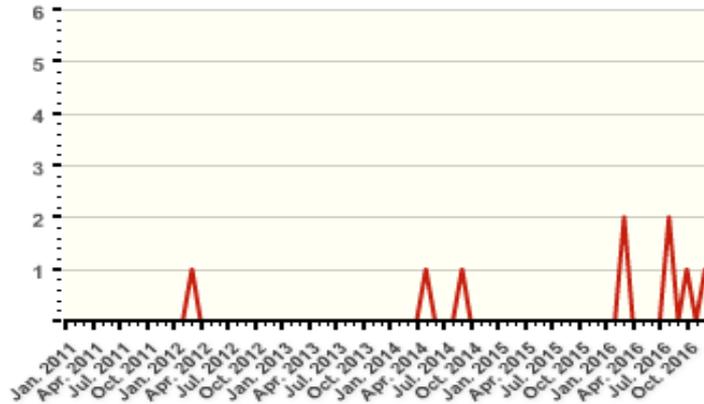
•Source: START Data Base, All incidents regardless of doubt. Belgium; France; Germany; Italy; Spain; United Kingdom

8/18/2016

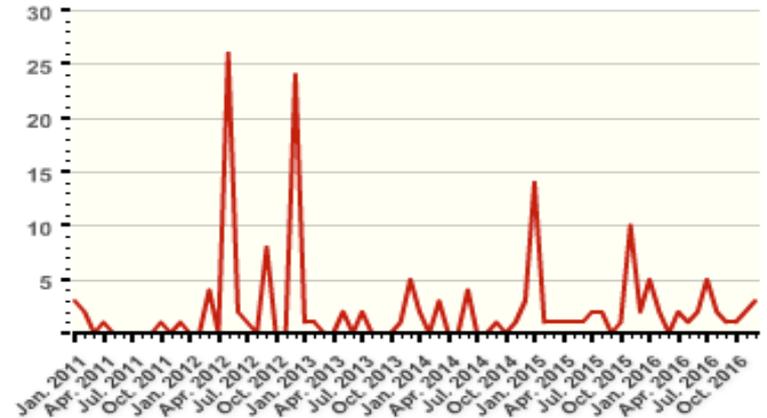
https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?chart=country&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_yearonly=2011&end_yearonly=2016&tp2=all&country=21,69,75,98,185,603

West Europe Incidents by Key Target Country: 2011-2016 (Spain shown earlier, 14 incidents)

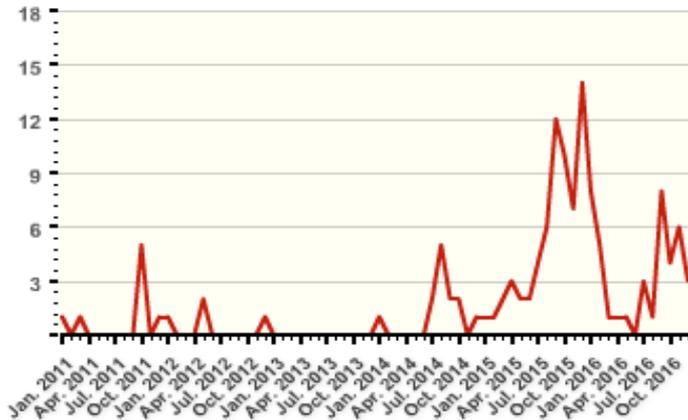
Belgium – 9 Incidents



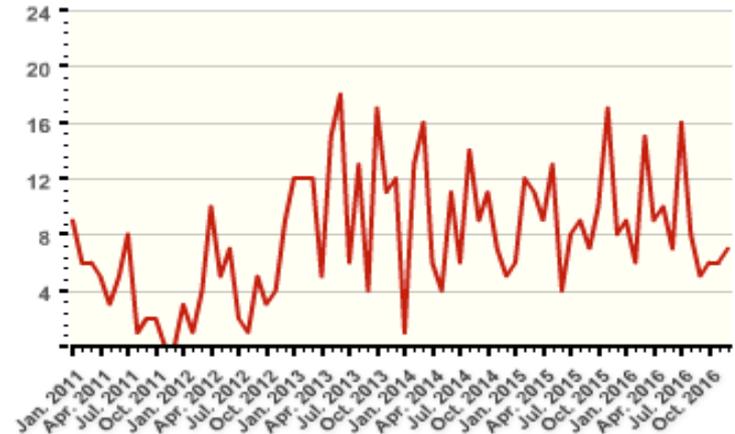
France – 161 Incidents



Germany – 130 Incidents



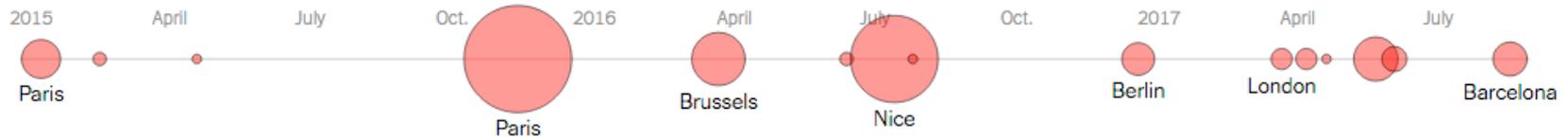
UK – 559 Incidents



Source: START Data Base,

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dt2=all&sAttack=1,0

Western Europe: Major Violent Attacks: 2015-August 2017- I



Jan. 8, 2015: Paris

Terrorists wielding **assault rifles** killed 17 people at the office of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and other locations in the Paris area.

Feb. 15, 2015: Copenhagen

A gunman went on a **shooting rampage**, killing two strangers and wounding five police officers.

April 19, 2015: Villejuif, France

A man **shot** and killed a woman in her car, and was believed to be planning an attack on a church congregation, but instead shot himself in the leg.

Nov. 13, 2015: Paris

A series of coordinated **bombing and shooting attacks** throughout Paris killed 130 people.

March 22, 2016: Brussels

Two **bombs** were set off at the city's main international airport and a third exploded in a subway station.

June 13, 2016: Magnanville, France

A police captain was fatally **stabbed** and his companion was also killed at their home in a small town northwest of Paris.

July 14, 2016: Nice, France

A man driving a truck **barreled down a crowded beach promenade** as people gathered to celebrate Bastille Day.

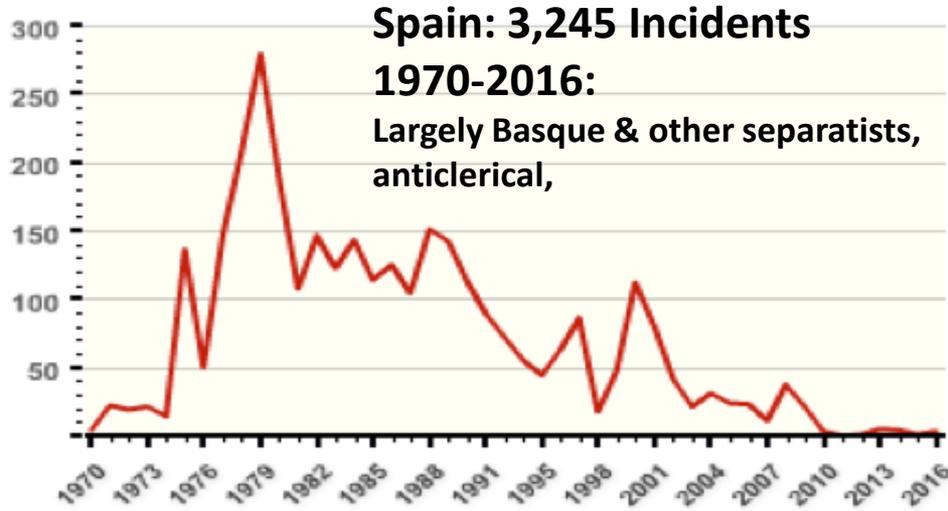
July 26, 2016: St.-Étienne-du-Rouvray, France

Two men with **knives** entered a small church and killed a French priest.

Source: Adapted from [KAREN YOURISH, K.K. REBECCA LAI](#) and [GREGOR AISCH](#), "Barcelona Attack Adds to the Toll of Terrorism in Western Europe, Washington, Post,"

August 18, 2017, https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/23/world/europe/europe-terror-attacks.html?_r=0, and START, advanced search.

Western Europe: Major Violent Attacks: 2015-August 2017- II



Dec. 19, 2016
 Berlin
 A driver **plowed a truck** through a Christmas market.

March 22, 2017
 London
 A driver **mowed down pedestrians** on Westminster Bridge and tried to break into Parliament before being shot and killed by the police.

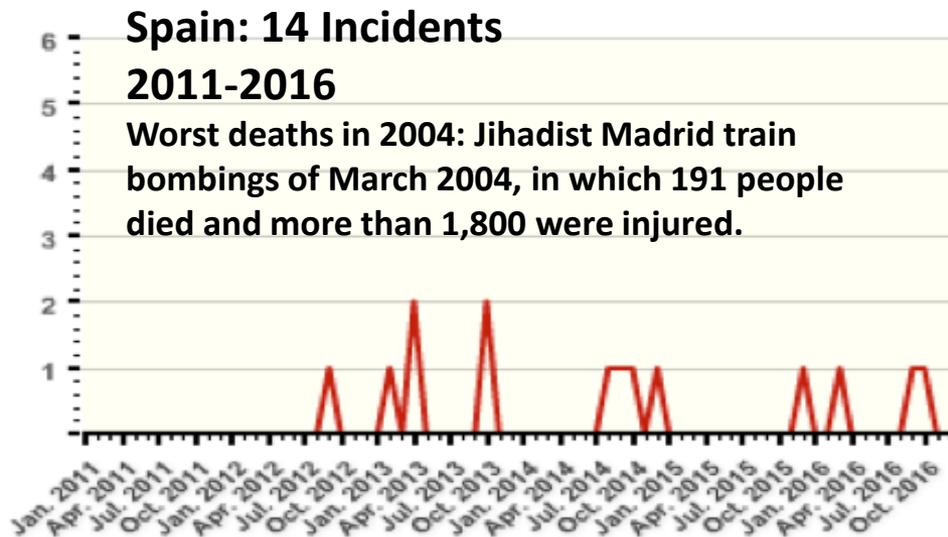
April 7, 2017
 Stockholm
 A man in a truck **steered into a crowd** on a shopping street and crashed into a department store.

April 20, 2017
 Paris
 A gunman wielding an assault rifle **shot** and killed a police officer on the Champs-Élysées before being shot dead.

May 22, 2017
 Manchester, England
 An **explosion** at a concert arena killed or injured dozens.

June 3, 2017
 London
 Three attackers **drove a van** into pedestrians on London Bridge and **stabbed** people at nearby Borough Market.

Aug. 17, 2017
 Barcelona, Spain
 A **van crashed into pedestrians** in the center of Barcelona, Spain, killing at least 13 people.

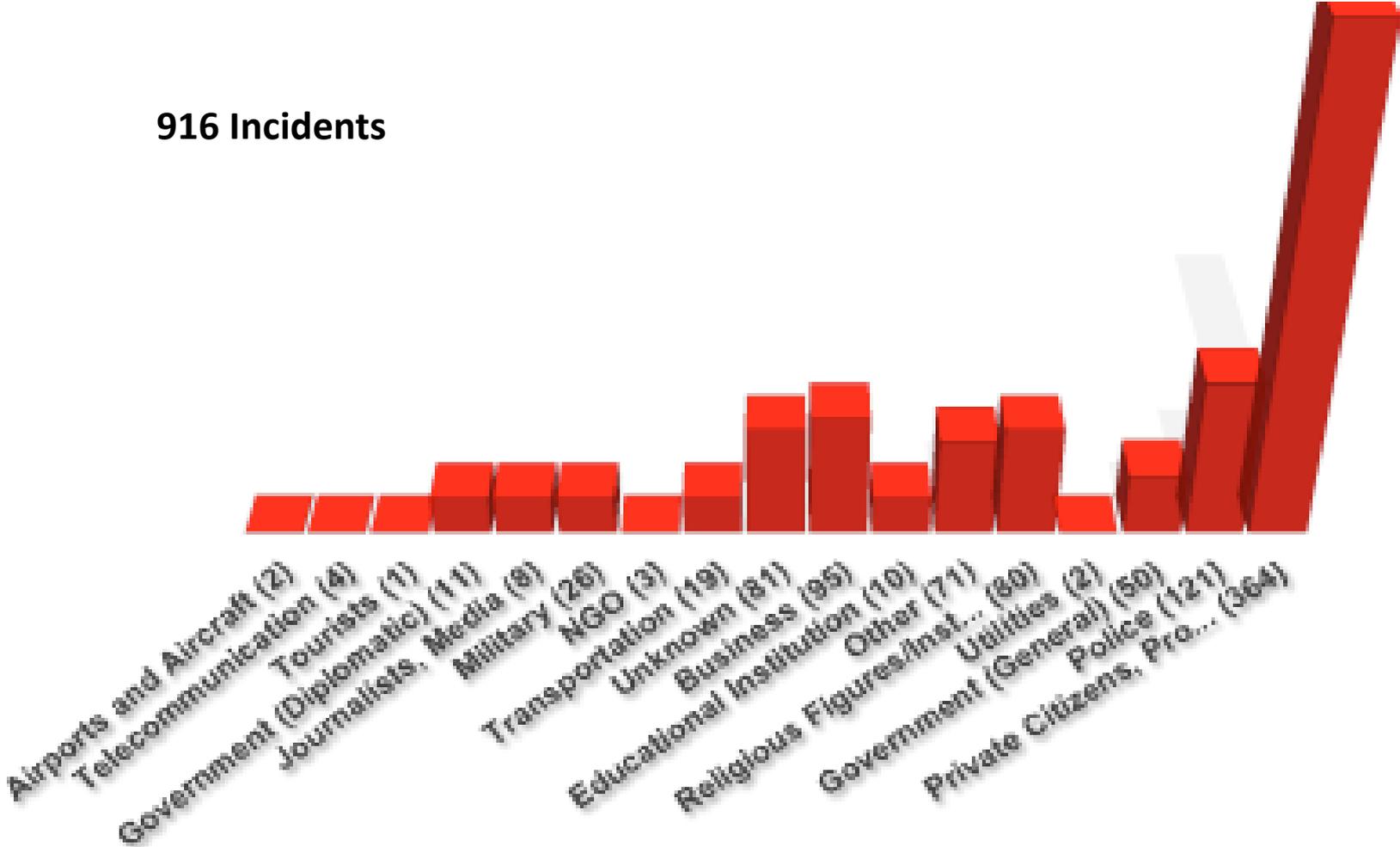


Source: Adapted from [KAREN YOURISH, K.K. REBECCA LAI](#) and [GREGOR AISCH](#), "Barcelona Attack Adds to the Toll of Terrorism in Western Europe, Washington, Post," August 18, 2017, https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/23/world/europe/europe-terror-attacks.html?_r=0, and START, advanced search.

Western European Target Types by Key Target County: 2011-2016:

Private Citizens Dominate

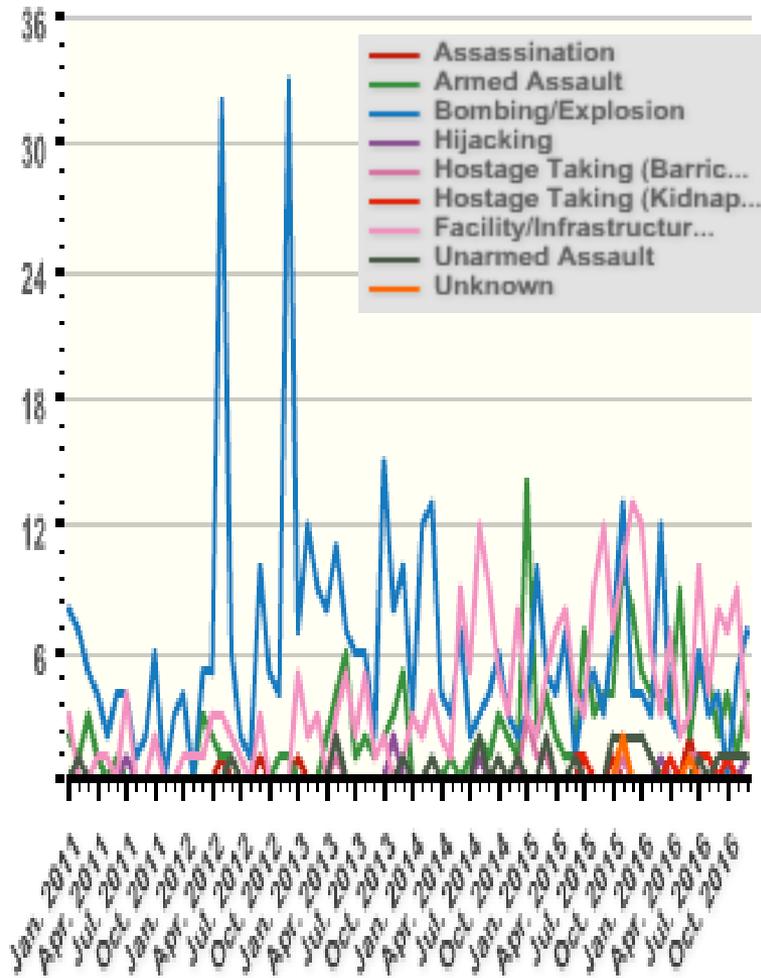
916 Incidents



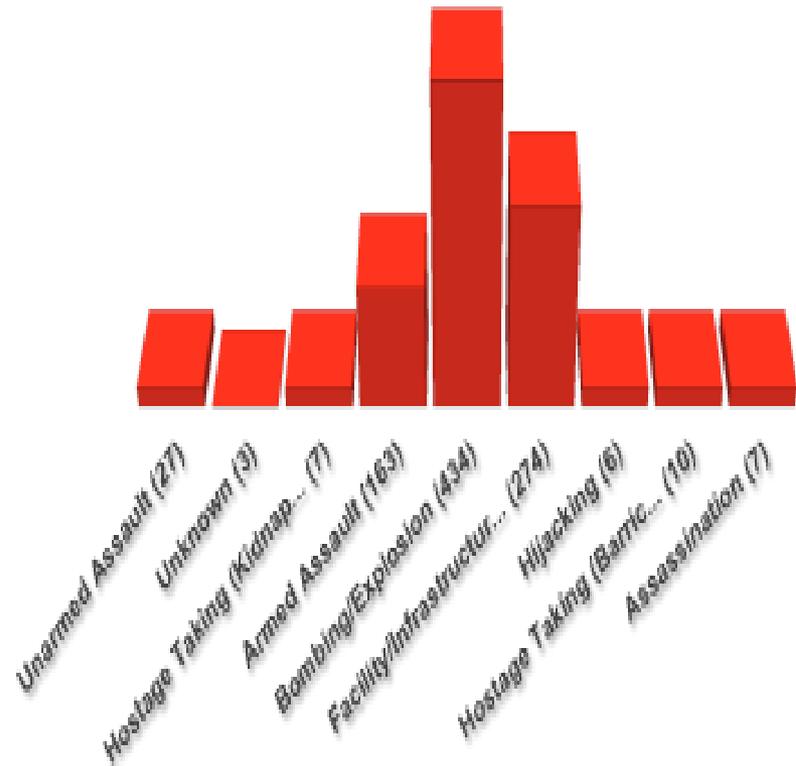
•Source: START Data Base, All incidents regardless of doubt. Belgium; France; Germany; Italy; Spain; United Kingdom

Western European Attack Types by Key Target Country: 2011-2016:

Armed attacks, Bombing/Explosions & Facility Attacks Dominate



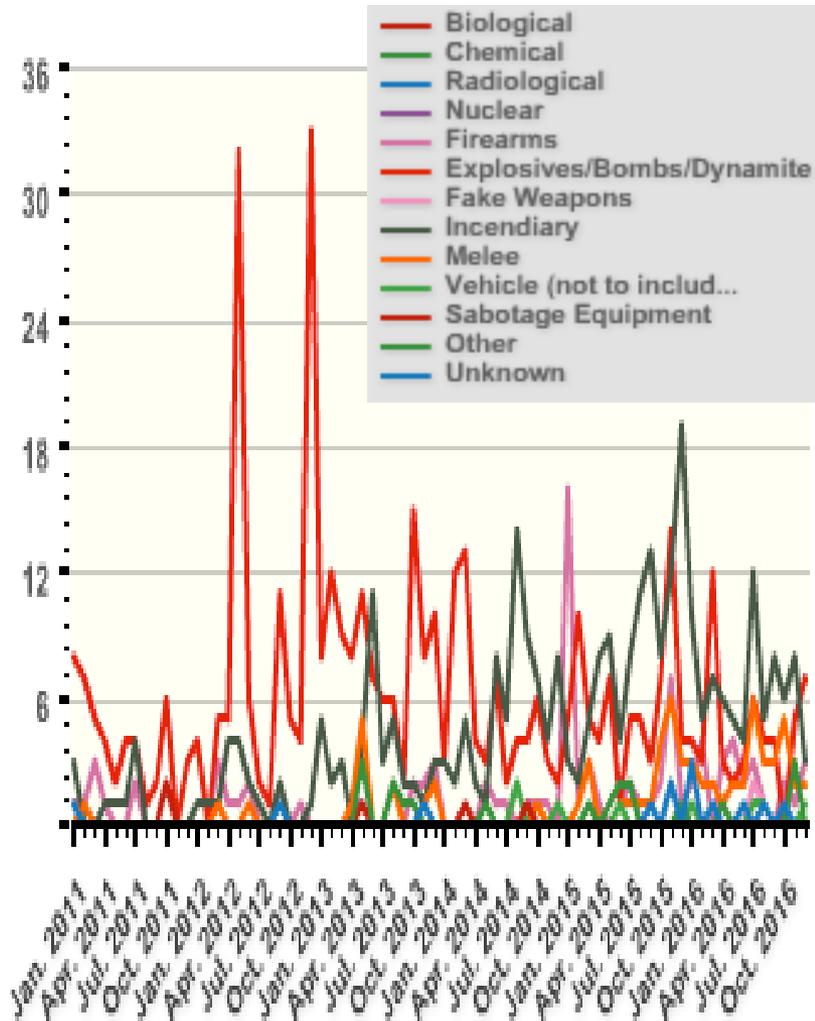
916 Incidents



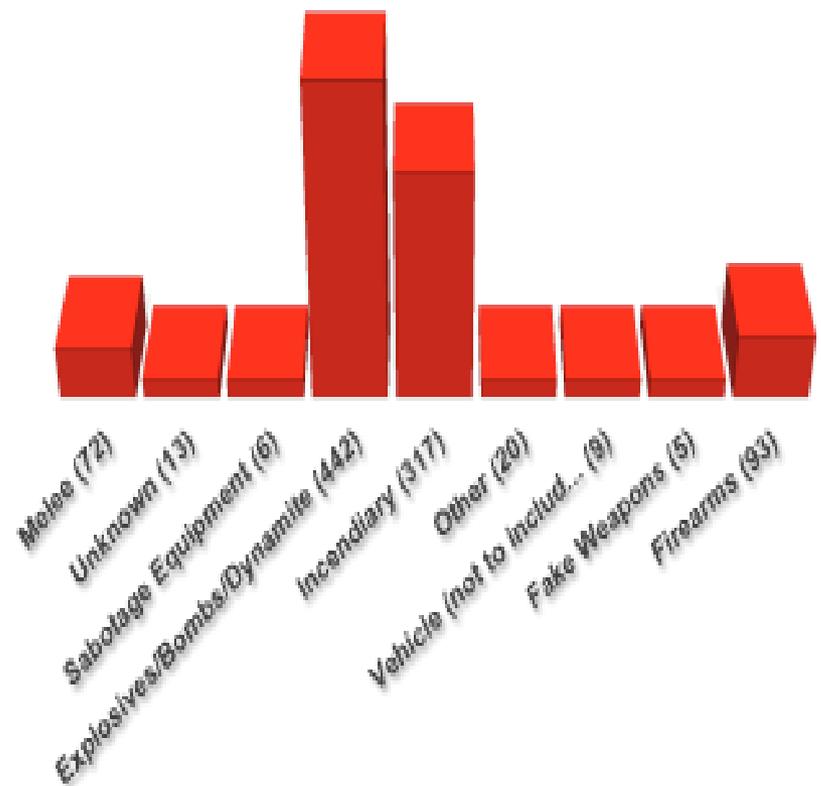
•Source: START Data Base, All incidents regardless of doubt. Belgium; France; Germany; Italy; Spain; United Kingdom

Weapons Types in Key Western European Target Countries: 2011-2016:

Explosives, Bombs, Incendiaries Dominate



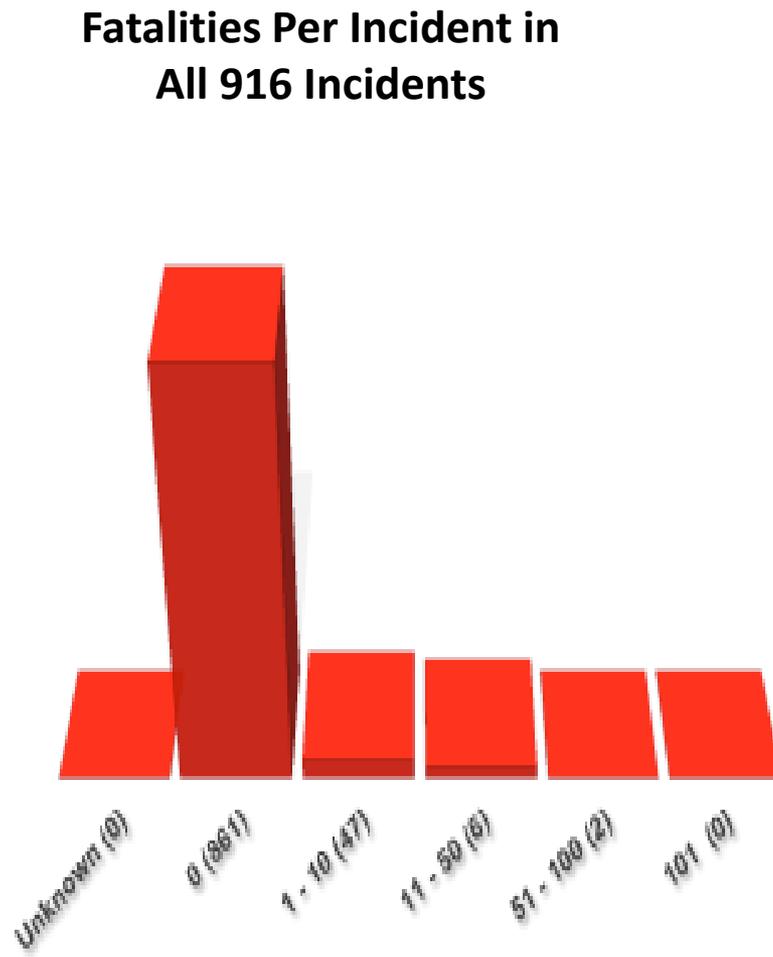
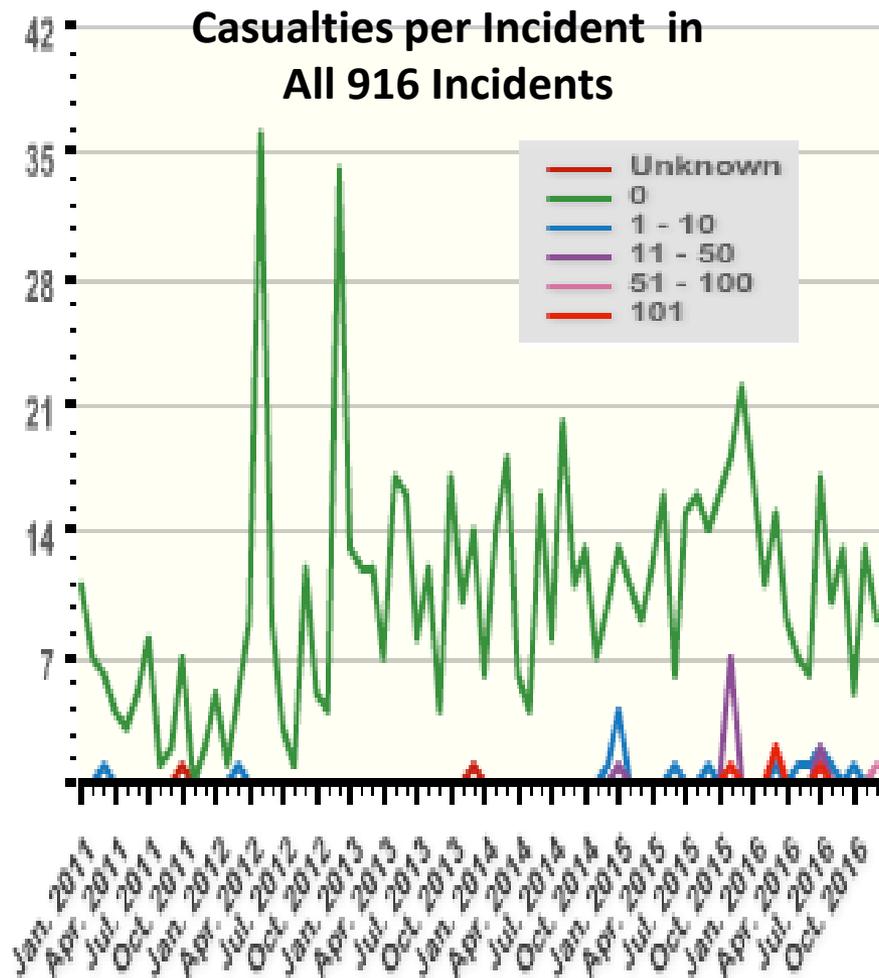
916 Incidents



•Source: START Data Base, All incidents regardless of doubt. Belgium; France; Germany; Italy; Spain; United Kingdom

Casualty Levels per Incident in Key West European Target Countries: 2011-2016:

Most of 916 incidents were casualty free, but six were very high in later years



•Source: START Data Base, All incidents regardless of doubt. Belgium; France; Germany; Italy; Spain; United Kingdom

IHS Jane's Estimate by European Country: 2015-2016

Country	Attacks		Non-Militant Fatalities		Non-Militant Wounded		Involvement of Top Ten Perpetrators
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	
Albania	8	2	0	1	-	-	N/A
Austria	0	2	0	7	-	-	N/A
Belgium	0	35	2	7	-	-	Islamic State
Bosnia/Herzegovina	4	1	3	2	-	-	N/A
Bulgaria	1	3	0	0	-	-	N/A
Croatia	0	1	0	0	-	-	N/A
Cyprus	0	3	0	1	-	-	N/A
Czech Republic	3	2	0	7	-	-	N/A
Denmark	0	1	0	0	-	-	N/A
Finland	2	7	0	35	-	-	Islamic State
Germany	67	65	0	21	-	-	Islamic State
Greece	28	56	0	0	-	-	N/A
France	51	40	92	150	-	-	Islamic State
Ireland	13	2	1	2	-	-	N/A
Italy	7	6	0	1	-	-	N/A
Kosovo	10	15	0	0	-	-	N/A
Macedonia	4	1	1	0	-	-	N/A
Moldova	0	5	0	1	-	-	N/A
Montenegro	2	1	0	0	-	-	N/A
Netherlands	3	3	0	0	-	-	N/A
Poland	1	1	0	0	-	-	N/A
Romania	0	1	0	0	-	-	N/A
Russia	54	51	24	23	0	0	Islamic State
Spain	0	2	0	0	-	-	N/A
Sweden	11	7	2	0	0	0	N/A
Switzerland	2	1	0	0	-	-	N/A
Turkey	348	729	403	904	-	-	Islamic state, Partiya Karkeran Kurdistan (PKK)
Ukraine	1,113	4,449	-	-	431	202	Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), Luhansk People's Republic (LPR)
United Kingdom	151	105	-	-	0	9	N/A

IHS Jane's 2016 Global Attack Index – United States, Belgium, France, Germany, United Kingdom

Belgium

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	2	7
Non-Militant Fatalities	0	35
Non-Military Injured	0	192
Suicide Attacks	--	--

**Groups Operating in Country from Top 10:
Islamic State**

France

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	51	40
Non-Militant Fatalities	150	92
Non-Military Injured	47	0
Suicide Attacks	--	--

**Groups Operating in Country from Top 10:
Islamic State**

Germany

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	67	65
Non-Militant Fatalities	0	21
Non-Military Injured	0	163
Suicide Attacks	--	--

**Groups Operating in Country from Top 10:
Islamic State**

United Kingdom

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	151	105
Non-Militant Fatalities	0	9
Non-Military Injured	94	0
Suicide Attacks	--	--

**Groups Operating in Country from Top 10:
Islamic State**

Source: IHS Janes, Acts of terrorism, insurgency, and violent protest recorded by Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre in 2016

8/18/2017

IHS Jane's 2016 Global Attack Index – Turkey, Ireland, Italy, Spain

Turkey

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	348	729
Non-Militant Fatalities	403	904
Non-Military Injured	951	2,791
Suicide Attacks	--	--
Groups Operating in Country from Top 10: Islamic State, PKK		

Ireland

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	13	2
Non-Militant Fatalities	1	2
Non-Military Injured	0	0
Suicide Attacks	--	--
Groups Operating in Country from Top 10: Islamic State		

Italy

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	7	6
Non-Militant Fatalities	0	1
Non-Military Injured	2	2
Suicide Attacks	--	--
Groups Operating in Country from Top 10: Islamic State		

Spain

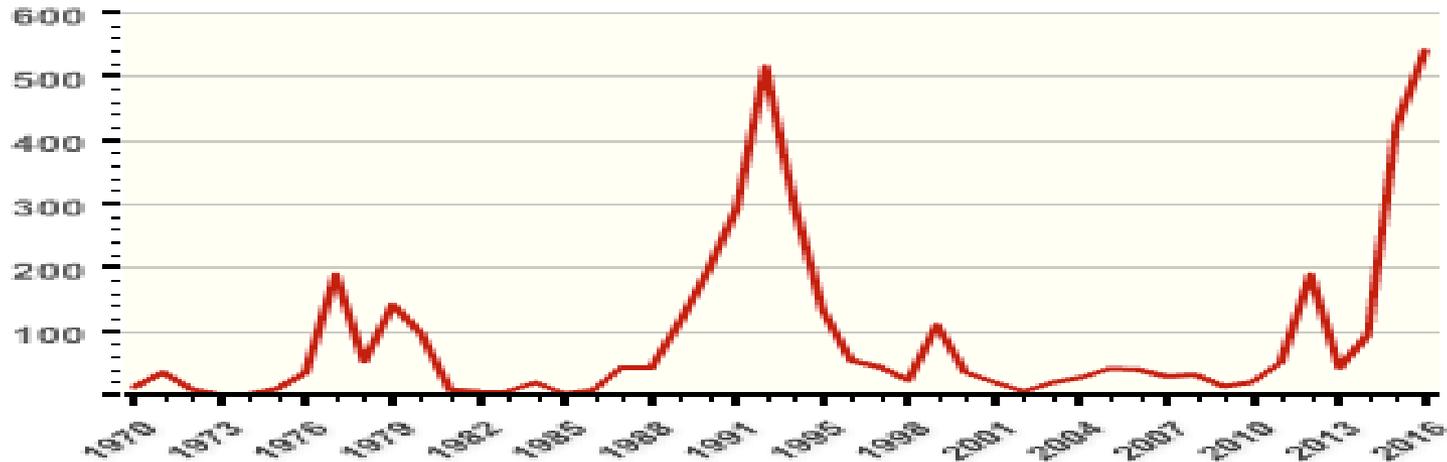
	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	0	2
Non-Militant Fatalities	0	0
Non-Military Injured	0	0
Suicide Attacks	--	--
Groups Operating in Country from Top 10: Islamic State		

Source: IHS Janes, Acts of terrorism, insurgency, and violent protest recorded by Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre in 2016

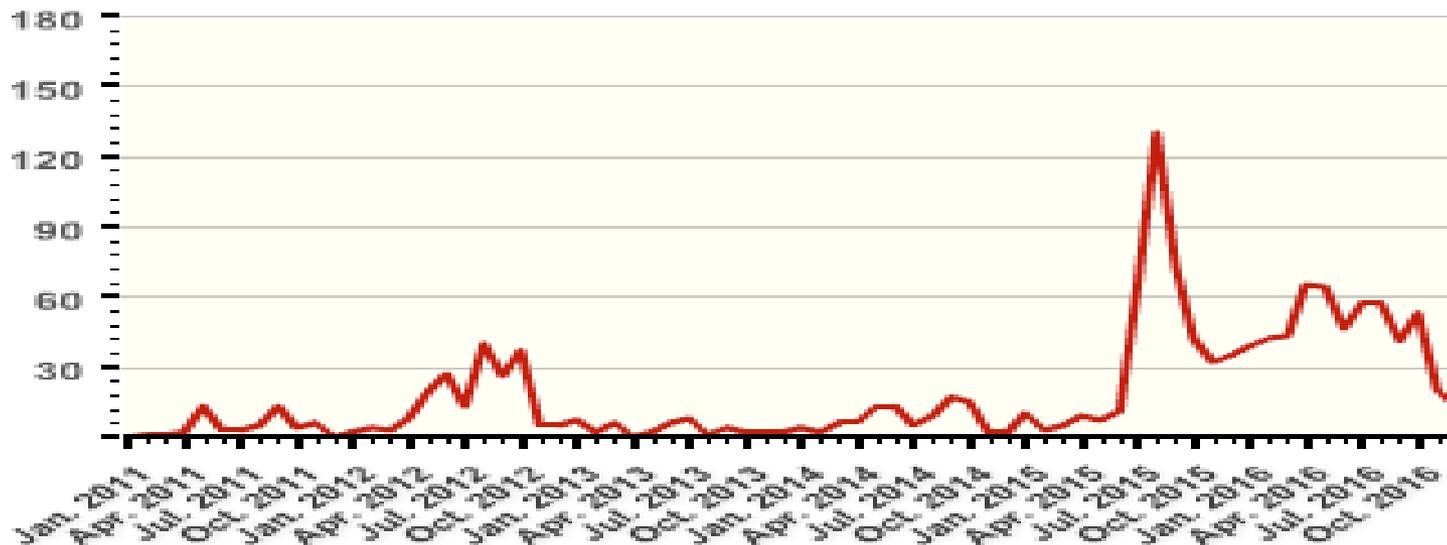
8/18/2017

Turkey Incidents: 1970-2016

1970-2016 – 4,106 Incidents



2011-2016 – 1,337 Incidents



Source: START Data Base,

8/18/2016 http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

EU and Europol

EU Analysis of Broad Patterns in Attacks in 2016 - I

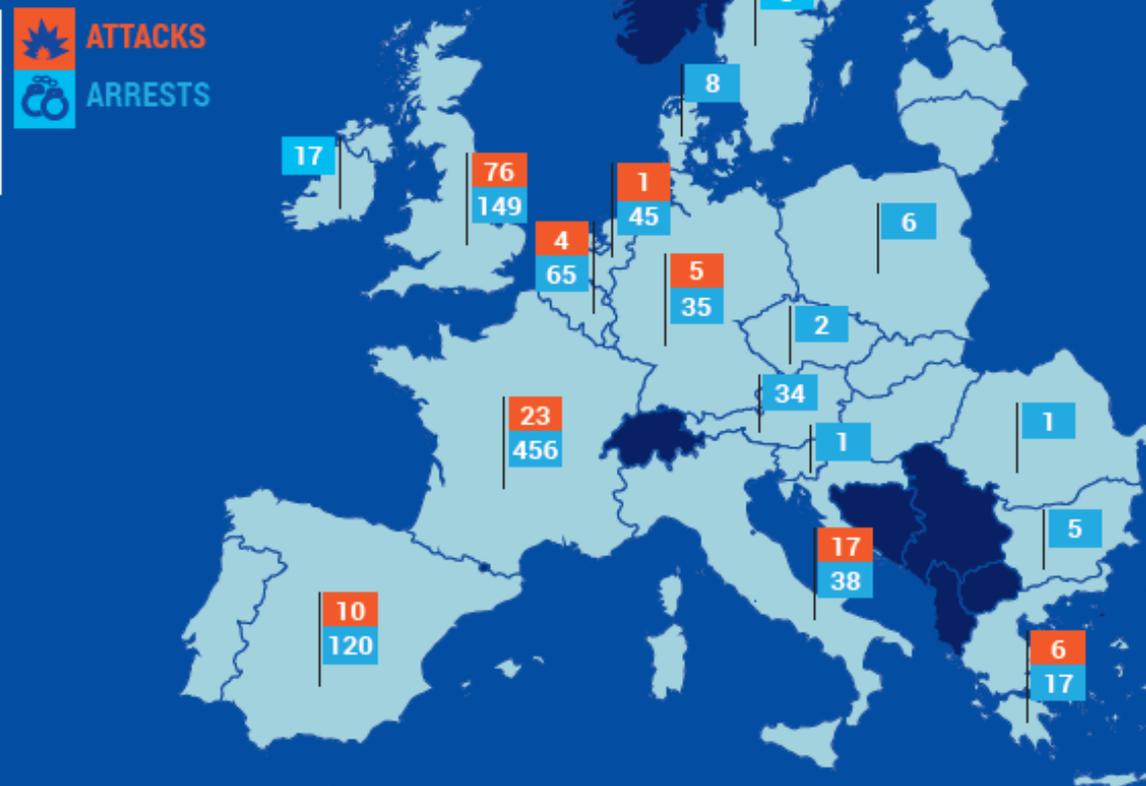
- In 2016 a total of 142 failed, foiled and completed attacks were reported by eight Member States. More than half (76) of them were by the UK². France reported 23 attacks, Italy 17, Spain 10, Greece 6, Germany 5, Belgium 4 and Netherlands 1.
- Of the 142 attacks, less than half (47) were completed. Member States reported that 142 victims died as a result of terrorist attacks and 379 people were injured.
- **Nearly all reported fatalities³ and most of the casualties were the result of jihadist terrorist attacks. The total number of 142 attacks is a continuation of a downward trend that started in 2014 when there were 226 attacks, followed by 211 in 2015.**
- The largest number of attacks in which the terrorist affiliation could be identified were carried out by ethno-nationalist and separatist extremists (99). Attacks carried out by left-wing violent extremists have been on the rise since 2014; they reached a total of 27 in 2016, of which most (16) were reported by Italy.
- **The number of jihadist terrorist attacks decreased from 17 in 2015 to 13 in 2016, of which 6 were linked to the so-called Islamic State (IS). However, a precise ranking amongst and within terrorist affiliations across the EU cannot be established because the UK does not provide disaggregated data on attacks.**
- Explosives were used in 40% of the attacks, with similar numbers to 2015.
- The use of firearms dropped considerably from 57 in 2015 to 6 in 2016.
- **Apart from jihadist, ethno-nationalist and left-wing extremist attacks, an increasing stream of violent assaults by right-wing extremist individuals and groups was noted across Europe, in particular over the past two years, targeting asylum seekers and ethnic minorities in general.**
- **These assaults however do not generally qualify as terrorism and are therefore not included in the numbers of terrorist attacks being reported by Member States, with only one exception in 2016, reported by the Netherlands.**
- The number of arrests for terrorist offences in 2016 (1002) is lower than that of 2015 (1077).

EU Analysis of Broad Patterns in Attacks 2016 - II

- **Most arrests were related to jihadist terrorism, for which the numbers rose for the third consecutive year: 395 in 2014, 687 in 2015 and 718 in 2016.**
- **Numbers of arrests for left-wing and separatist terrorist offences dropped to half of what they were in 2015 (from 67 and 168 in 2015 to 31 and 84 in 2016 respectively).**
- **Numbers of arrests for rightwing terrorism remained low at 12 in 2016 compared to 11 in 2015.**
- **France is the only Member State in which the overall numbers of arrests continue to increase: from 238 in 2014, to 424 in 2015 and to 456 in 2016.**
- **Almost one-third of arrestees (291) were 25 years old or younger. Only one in ten arrestees (9%) in 2016 was older than 40 years.**
- **Arrests for terrorist activities (preparing, financing, assisting, attempting or executing attacks) decreased from 209 in 2015 to 169 in 2016.**
- **Arrests for travelling to conflict zones for terrorist purposes also decreased: from 141 in 2015 to 77 in 2016. This was similar to the decrease in numbers of arrests of people returning from the conflict zones in Syria and Iraq: from 41 in 2015 to 22 in 2016.**

Total Attacks and Arrests by Europol Member Country in 2014-2016

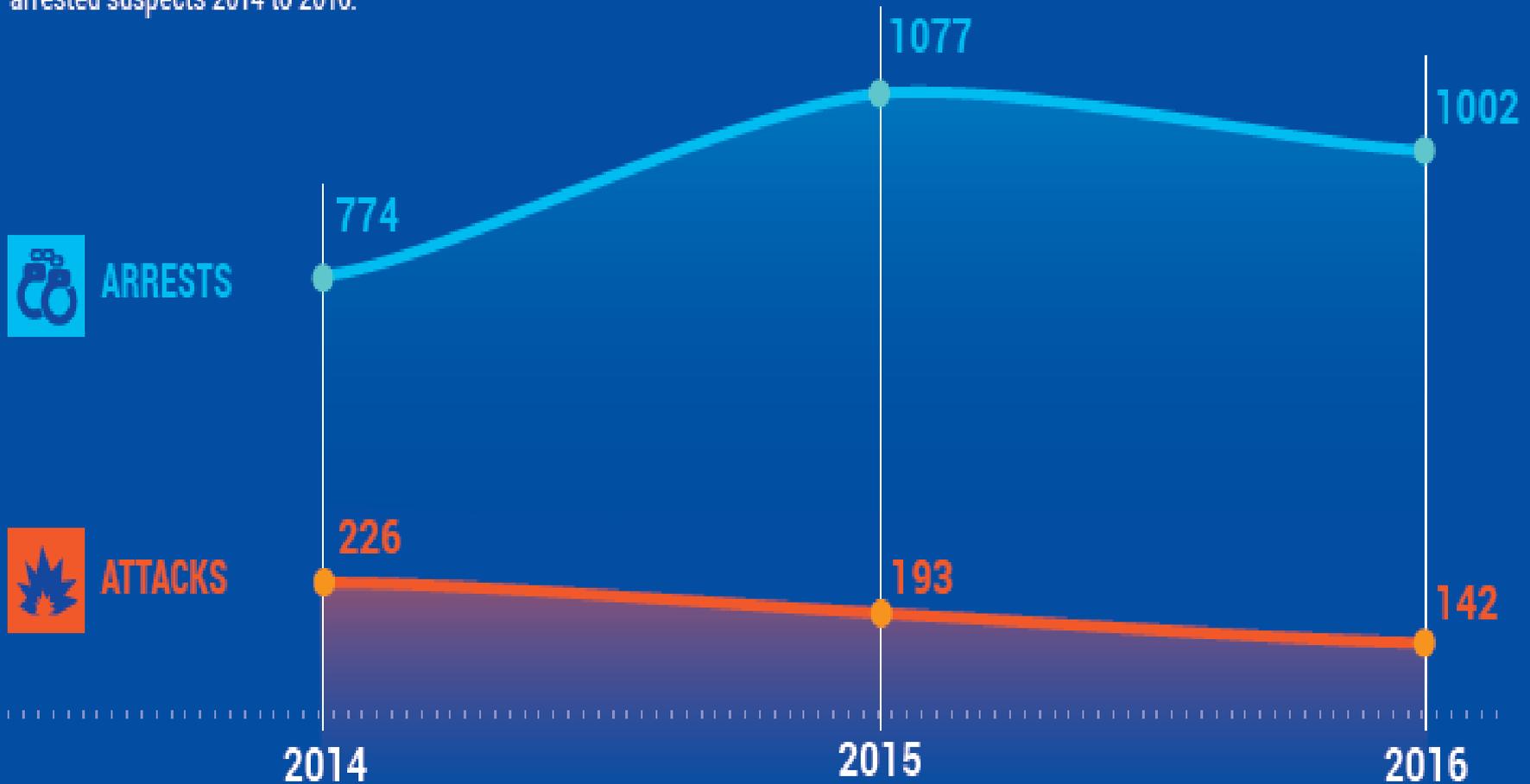
FIGURE 2
Attacks and arrests by EU Member State in 2016.



Source: *EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT), 2016*;
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/terrorism>, June 2017

Declining Attacks and Rising Arrests in 2014-2016

Number of failed, foiled or completed attacks; number of arrested suspects 2014 to 2016.



Jihadist vs. Total Attacks by Type by EU Country: 2016 - I

Member State	Jihadist	Left-wing	Right-wing	Separatist	Single issue	Not specified	Total
Belgium	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
France	5	0	0	18	0	0	23
Germany	4	0	0	0	0	1	5
Greece	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Italy	0	16	0	0	0	1	17
Netherlands	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Spain	0	5	0	5	0	0	10
UK	0	0	0	76	0	0	76
Total	13	27	1	99	0	2	142

- In 2016, 142 terrorist attacks occurred in eight Member States.
- The United Kingdom reported more than half of the total number of attacks (76). The total number of terrorist attacks dropped by 33% in 2016 (142) compared to 2015 (211). 379 casualties and 142 fatalities were reported as a result of terrorist attacks.
- For the majority of the attacks the affiliation was separatism (99).

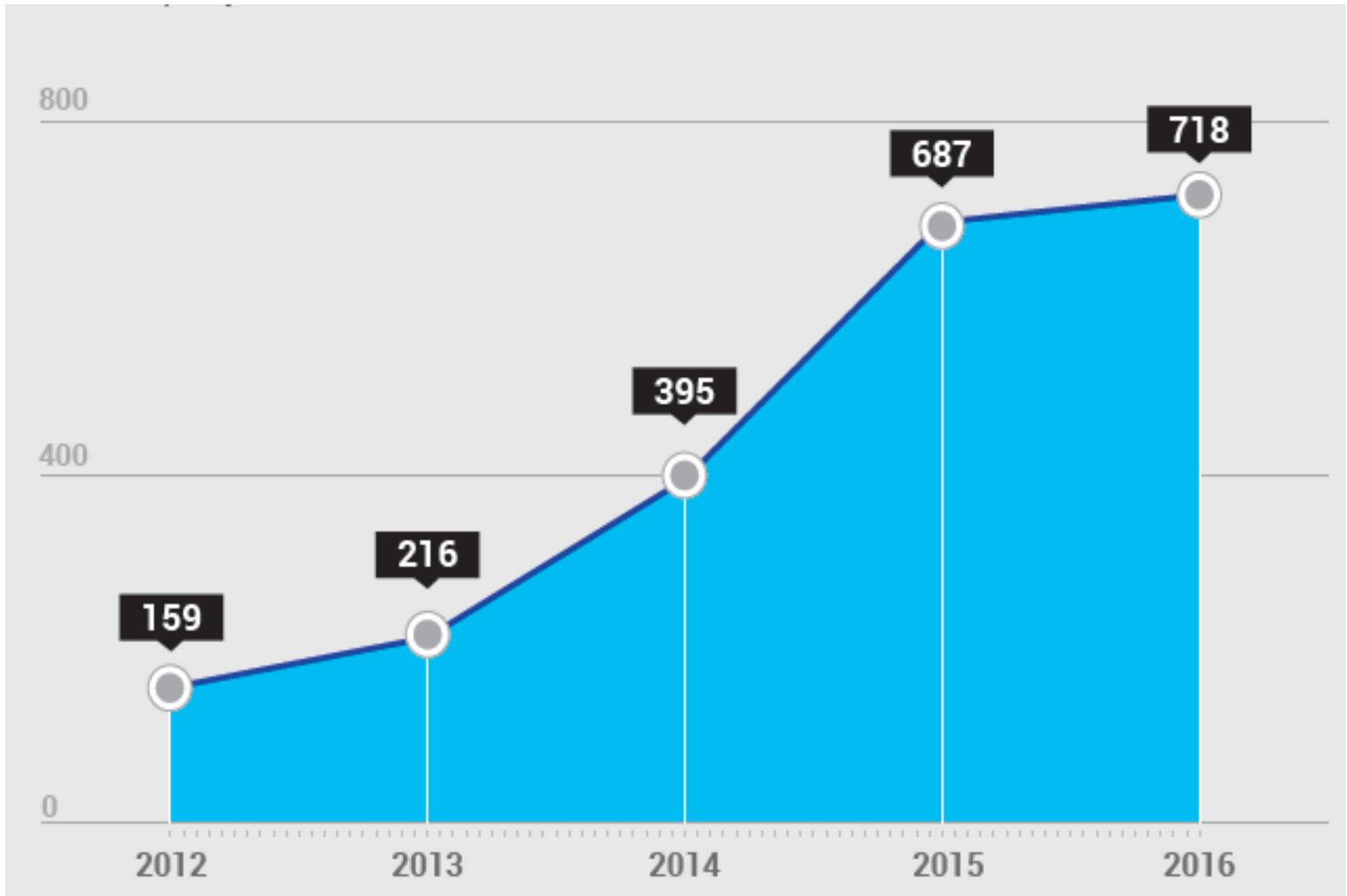
Jihadist vs. Total Attacks by Type by EU Country: 2016 - II

- **Italy, Greece and Spain together reported 27 terrorist attacks by left-wing and anarchist groups.** Despite the continued decrease of the total number of attacks, the number of attacks by anarchist and left-wing groups, increased by more than 100% (from 13 in 2015 to 27 attacks in 2016).
- The countries reporting terrorist attacks linked to separatist terrorism are the UK (76), France (18) and Spain (5).
- **The 13 attacks classified as religiously-inspired terrorism were reported by France (5), Belgium (4) and Germany (4).**
- **This category is the one causing the most casualties (374 out of 379) and 135 out of 142 fatalities).**
- The Netherlands reported one right-wing terrorist attack.
- No attack related to single-issue terrorism was reported in 2016.
- Attacks in which firearms were used dropped from 57 in 2015 to 6 in 2016

Jihadist vs. Total Arrests by Affiliation by EU Country: 2016

Member State	Jihadist	Left-wing	Right-wing	Separatist	Single issue	Not specified	Total
Austria	30	0	0	4	0	0	34
Belgium	62	0	0	0	0	3	65
Bulgaria	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Czech Republic	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Denmark	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
France	429	1	0	26	0	0	456
Germany	25	1	5	4	0	0	35
Greece	15	1	0	0	0	1	17
Ireland	1	0	0	16	0	0	17
Italy	28	8	0	1	0	1	38
Netherlands	36	0	6	1	0	2	45
Poland	5	0	1	0	0	0	6
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	69	19	0	31	0	1	120
Sweden	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
UK	-	-	-	-	-	149	149
Total	718	31	12	84	0	157	1002

Trend in Jihadist Arrests: 2012- 2016 - I



Broad Patterns in Jihadist Attacks in 2016 - I

- In 2016, 135 people were killed in jihadist terrorist attacks in the EU.
- In total 13 terrorist attacks were reported: France 5, Belgium 4 and Germany 4. Out of these 13 attacks, 10 were completed.
- A total of 718 people were arrested on suspicion of jihadist terrorism related offences.
- Numbers of arrests increased in particular in France: from 188 in 2014 and 377 in 2015 to 429 in 2016. There was also an increase in the Netherlands to 36 in 2016 compared to 20 in 2015. In the other Member States the numbers of arrests stayed at approximately the same level, or showed a (slight) decrease.
- Women have increasingly assumed more operational roles in jihadist terrorism activities, as have minors and young adults, as demonstrated in recent (primarily) failed and foiled attacks in Member States.
- One in four (26%) of the arrestees in 2016 were women, a significant increase compared to 2015 (18%).
- Attack planning against the West continues in Syria and Iraq. Groups including IS and al-Qaeda are believed to have both the intent and capabilities to mount complex, mass casualty attacks.
- IS is training operatives in Syria/Iraq to carry out terrorist acts in the West and has no shortage of volunteers to be part of teams to be sent abroad for this purpose.
- Al-Qaeda, despite decreased operational capabilities of its core organization, has maintained its ambition to carry out large-scale operations against Western targets.
- The terrorist threat in the EU in 2016 emanated from remotely directed individuals operating alone or in small groups, and those that may have been inspired by terrorist propaganda, but not directed. The former are receiving direction and personal instruction from, and are possibly being facilitated by, a terrorist organization.
- The latter are individual attackers, possibly but not necessarily being helped by family and/ or friends as accomplices. They are inspired by jihadist propaganda and messaging, but not necessarily receiving personal direction or instruction from any group.

Broad Patterns in Jihadist Attacks in 2016 - II

- ... Apart from completed attacks there were a number of failed and foiled terrorist attacks and arrests on suspicion of terrorist activities. Two plots that could have had a significant impact in terms of loss of life if they had not been stopped in time ... One was thwarted In France, the other in Germany.
- In 2016 EU citizens were killed in IS attacks outside the EU. On 12 January, 10 German tourists were killed in a suicide bomb attack in Istanbul (Turkey). This was one of seven fatal attacks in Turkey attributed to IS in 2016. On 1 July, nine Italian citizens were amongst the victims who lost their lives in Dhaka (Bangladesh) in an attack on a bakery located in an area near embassies, for which IS claimed responsibility (this was later disputed by Bangladesh's minister of home affairs, who stated that the perpetrators belonged to Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen).
- The high numbers of failed, foiled and completed jihadist attacks in 2016, and the equally high numbers of arrests of terrorism suspects, indicate a continued threat towards countries of the EU, and those Member States of the EU that are part of a coalition against IS in Syria/Iraq in particular.
- Therefore the threat of jihadist terrorism is not perceived equally amongst Member States, of which the majority have not been confronted with jihadist terrorist activities at all in 2016, nor in one of the preceding years. These countries might be used for transiting of foreign terrorist fighters, (potential) jihadists or returnees, or unintentionally providing for a safe haven for them. These and other factors, however, including perceived insults to Islam, may influence potential risks. Switzerland for instance, not being an EU Member State and not being part of a coalition against IS, is aware of its vulnerability to jihadist terrorism by association with other Western countries and its international profile.
- ... Since the IS announcement in June 2014 that it had re-established the caliphate, the group claimed that all Muslims were under the religious obligation to join it. It was alleged that, by doing so, they would re-enact the historical migration (*Hijrah*) of Prophet Muhammad to Medina in 622 AD to evade persecution in Mecca. The group declared that refusal to join it was proof of apostasy from Islam. In 2015 IS insisted that the only excuse for Muslims for not joining the group in the territories under its control was to perpetrate a terrorist attack in their places of residence.

Broad Patterns in Jihadist Attacks in 2016 - III

- As military pressure on IS increased and measures to prevent potential recruits from reaching IS-controlled territory became more effective, IS adapted its recruitment tactics. It now declared that perpetrating a terrorist attack in the West was even preferable to travelling to join IS.
- ... The increased efforts to incite IS sympathizers in the West to perpetrate attacks were reflected in practical guidance for lone actor attacks provided in IS publications. The IS multi-language magazine *Rumiyah*¹⁸ contained a series of articles under the title “Just Terror Tactics”, which suggested terrorist attacks using knives, vehicles or arson, and gave tips on how to maximize the numbers of victims and impact. Perpetrators were admonished to leave some kind of evidence stating the motivation of the attack and allegiance to IS, such as a note attached to the victim’s body or a last will.
- In 2016 IS preferred to claim lone actor attacks through its *A’maq News Agency*...The increased efforts by IS to directly recruit vulnerable people via social media and incite them to perpetrate terrorist acts in their country of residence, seem to not be limited to male targets.
- Media reporting suggests that women were also targeted, as in the 26 February knife attack in Hanover by a 15-year-old girl.
- ... In 2012, already before the emergence of IS, al-Qaeda had redesigned its strategy to ensure its survival under the changed political circumstances following the Arab rebellions: al-Qaeda would merge with the population to the extent possible; cooperate with other Muslim groups based on common interests; and administer territories that fell under its control in a way so as not to alienate the population. The aim was to create safe havens from which al-Qaeda could plan and execute attacks on Western targets. The intransigent behavior of IS toward local populations made the implementation of this new strategy even more pressing for al-Qaeda in an effort to mark the difference to its opponent.
- ... In 2016, *al-Qaeda* spent great efforts to refute the legitimacy of IS’s claim to leadership of all Muslims.

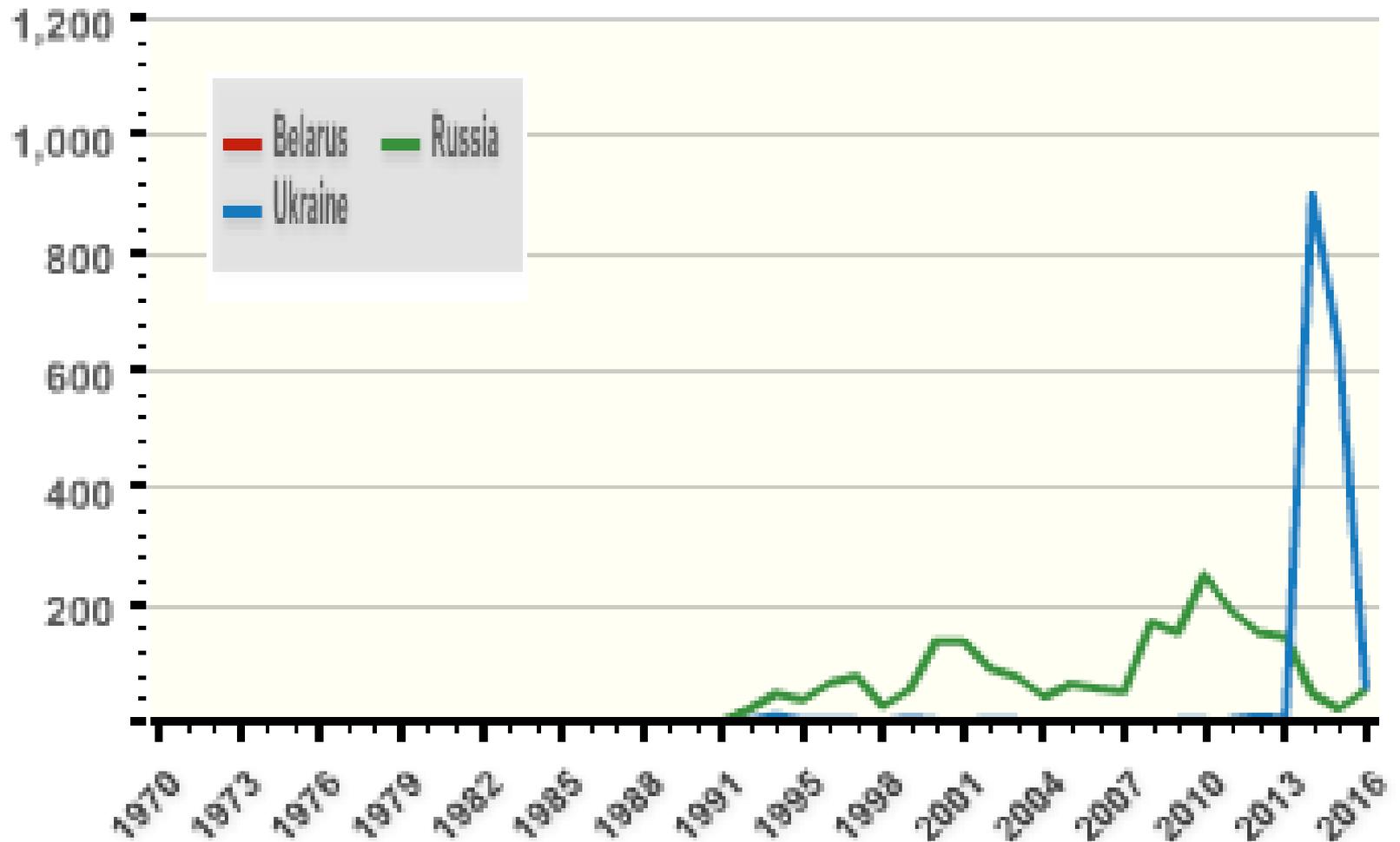
Broad Patterns in Jihadist Attacks in 2016 - IV

- ... In most of its material published in Arabic language, al-Qaeda tends to downplay its international aspirations. By contrast, al-Qaeda communication targeting audiences in the West contains views and calls for action very similar to those of IS. This is likely to be an attempt to benefit from the gradual decline of IS communication with the aim of again gaining ascendancy in the global jihadist movement. Interestingly, in doing so al-Qaeda copied successful propaganda formats developed by IS.
- Terrorist and armed criminal groups continue to consider citizens of the EU and other western countries as high value targets for kidnapping. This is because ransom money is a significant source of revenue for some groups; the extensive media attention attracted by western hostages can be exploited for propaganda and political pressure; and hostages can be used in prisoner swaps. It is assessed that militant groups do not select individuals of specific nationalities but target their victims opportunistically. The total number of abducted EU citizens is difficult to estimate due to the fact that not all the kidnapping incidents are reported for reasons related to the security of the hostages.

Russia and the Ukraine

Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine: 1970-2016

3821 Incidents

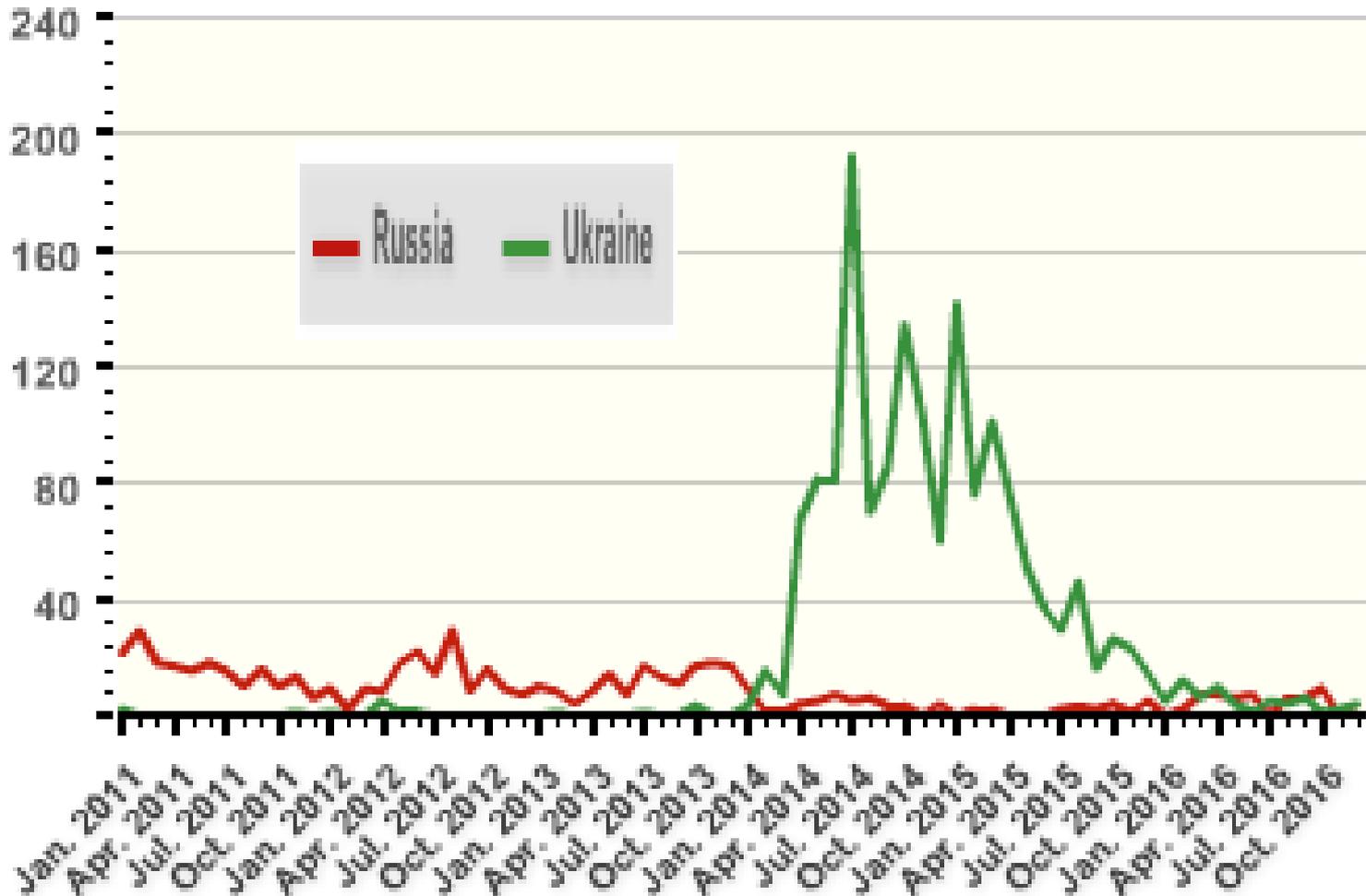


Source: START Data Base,

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

Russia and Ukraine: 2011-2016

Russia 606 and Ukraine 1,611 Incidents

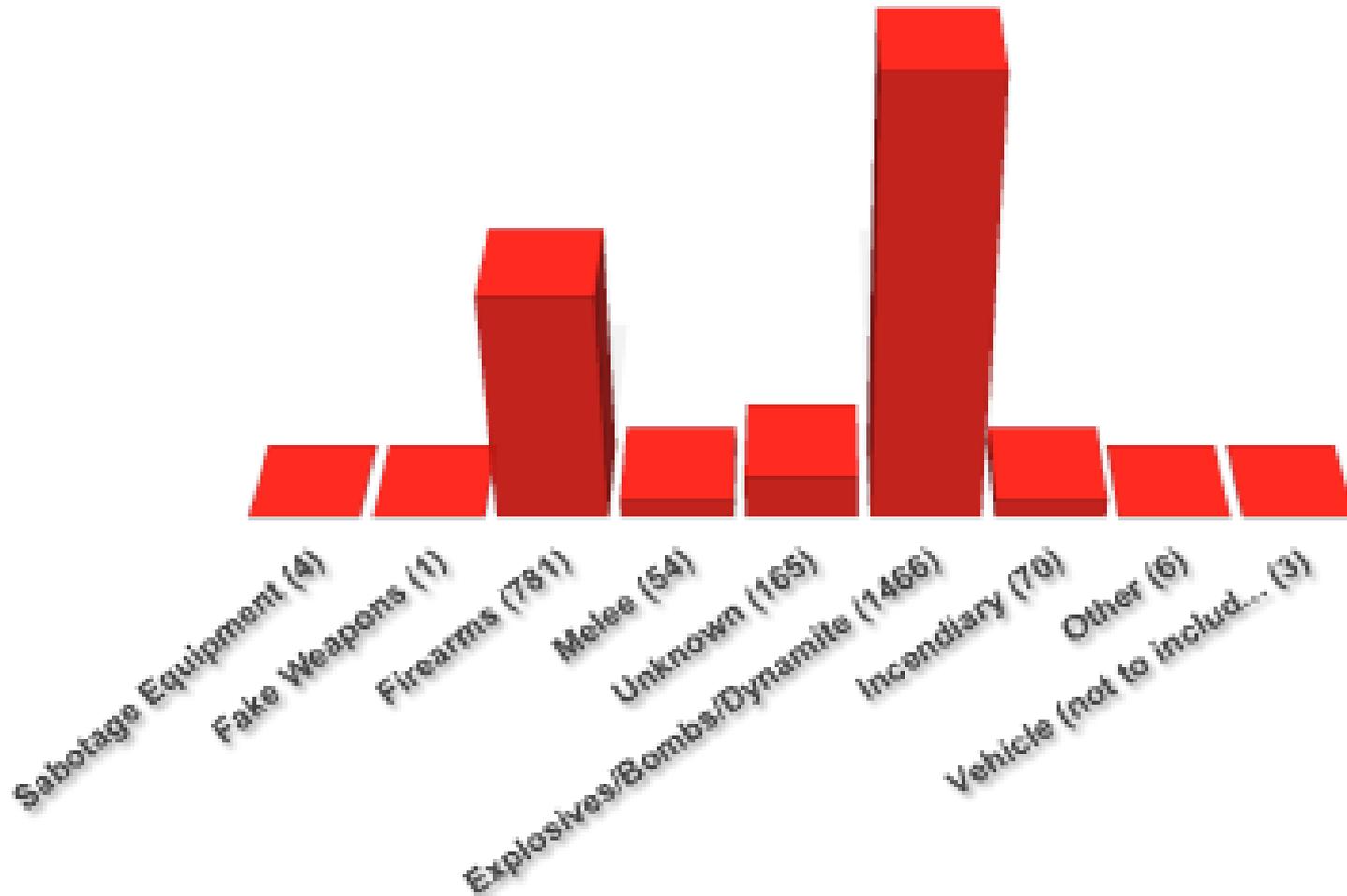


Source: START Data Base,

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

Russia and Ukraine – Weapons Type: 2011-2016

Russia 606 and Ukraine 1,611 Incidents

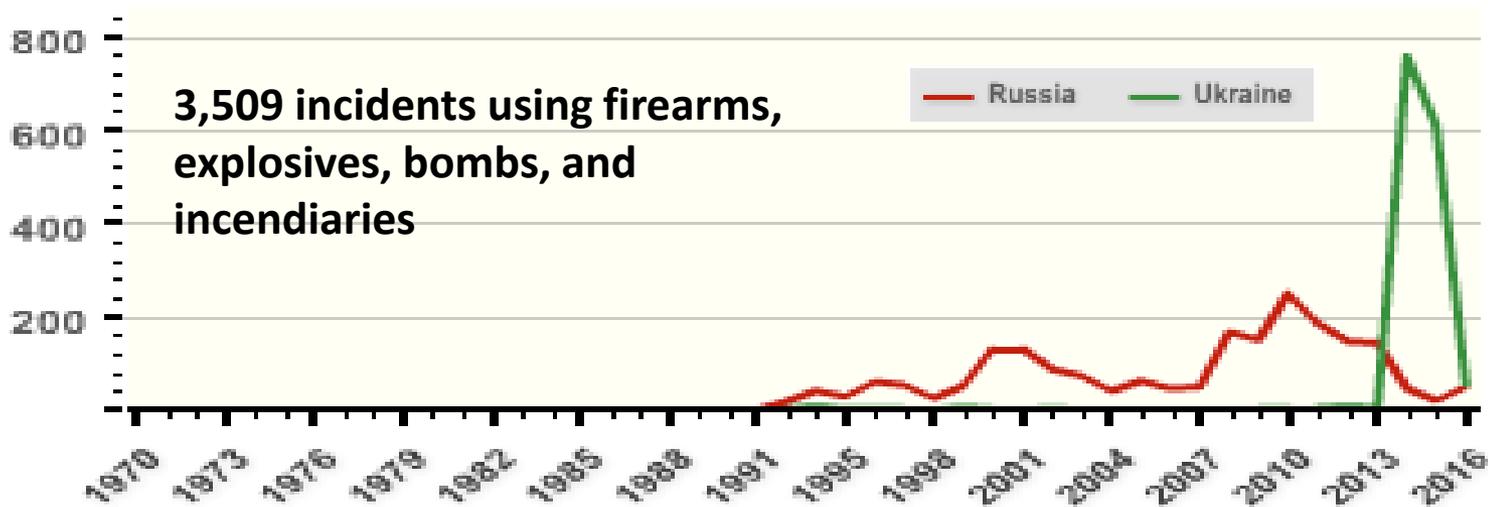
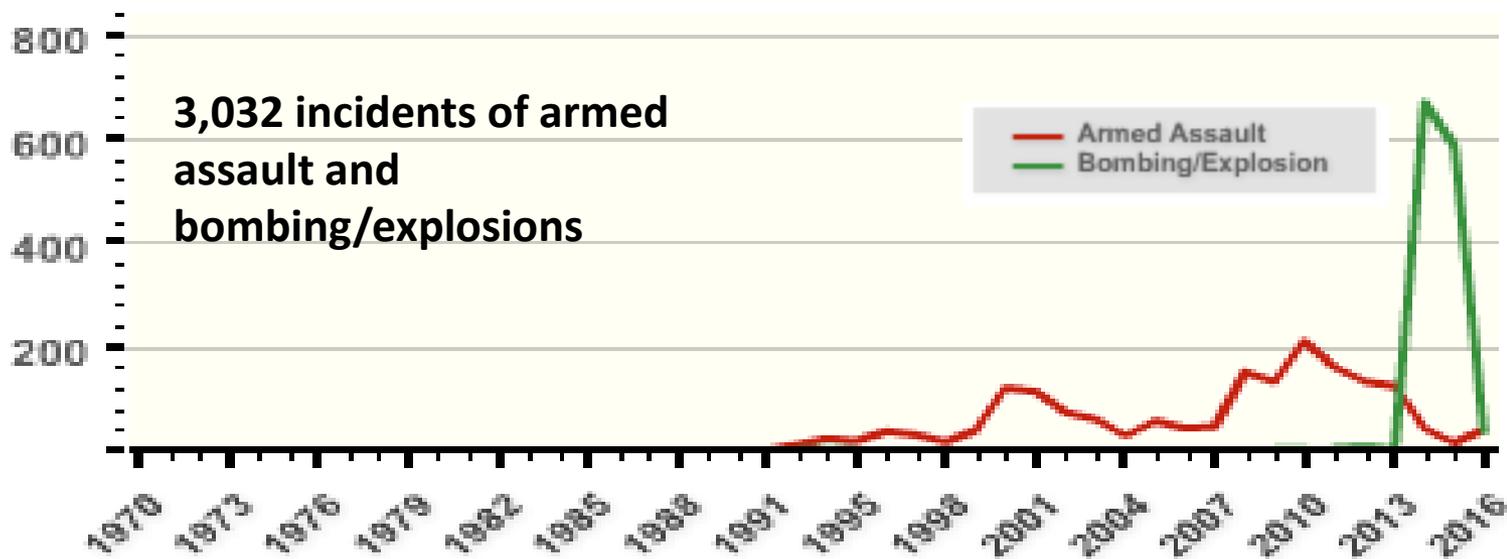


Source: START Data Base,

https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=weapon&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_yearonly=2011&end_y

8/18/2017 2:01 PM only=2016&ctp=all&country=167,214.

Ukraine & Russia Rise in Highly Violent Incidents: 1970-2016

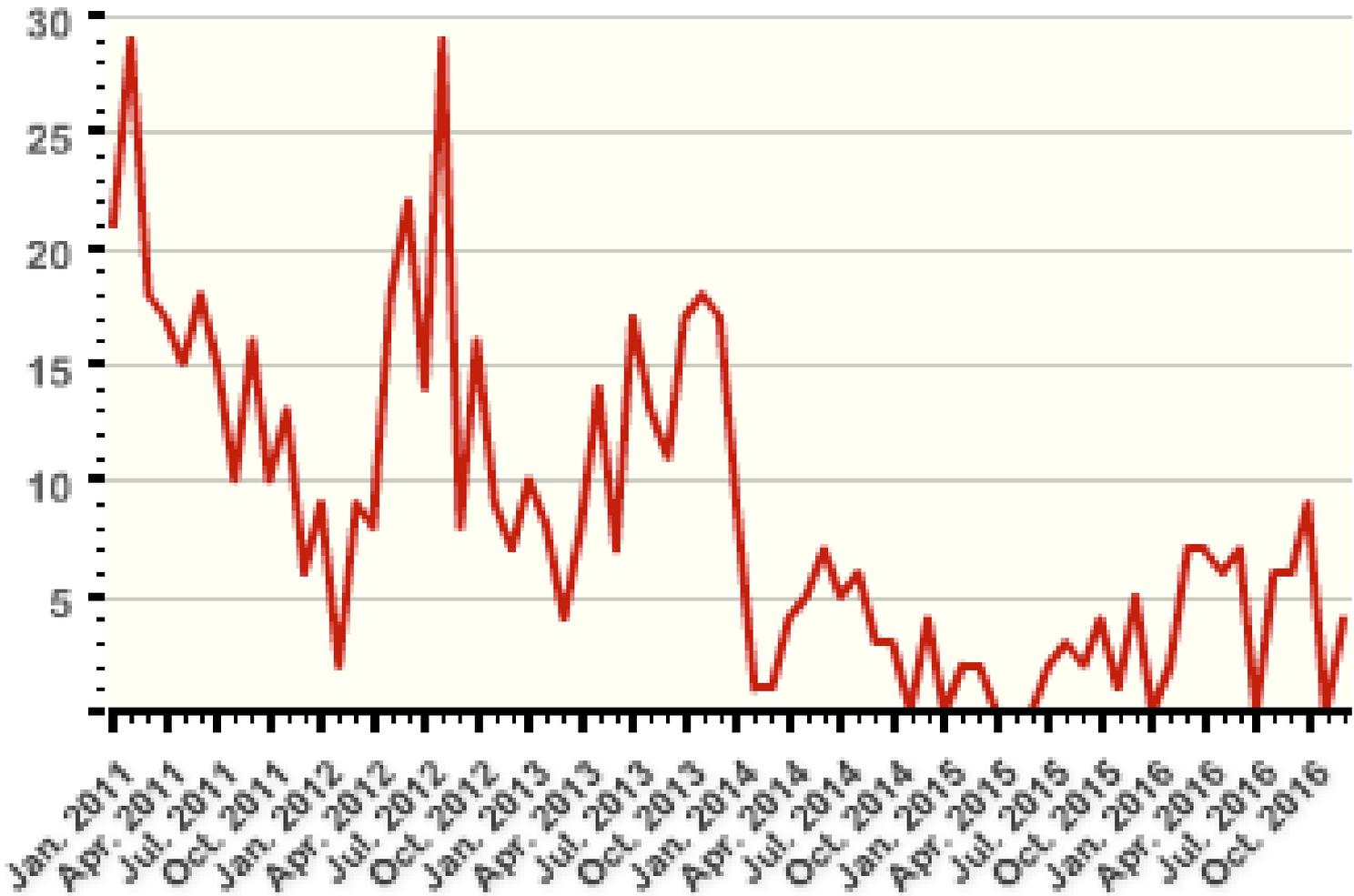


Source: START Data Base, All incidents regardless of doubt.

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?chart=country&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_yearonly=1970&end_yearonly=2016&ctp2=all&country=167,214&weapon=6,5,8&attack=2,3

Russia : 2011-2016

Russia 606 Incidents

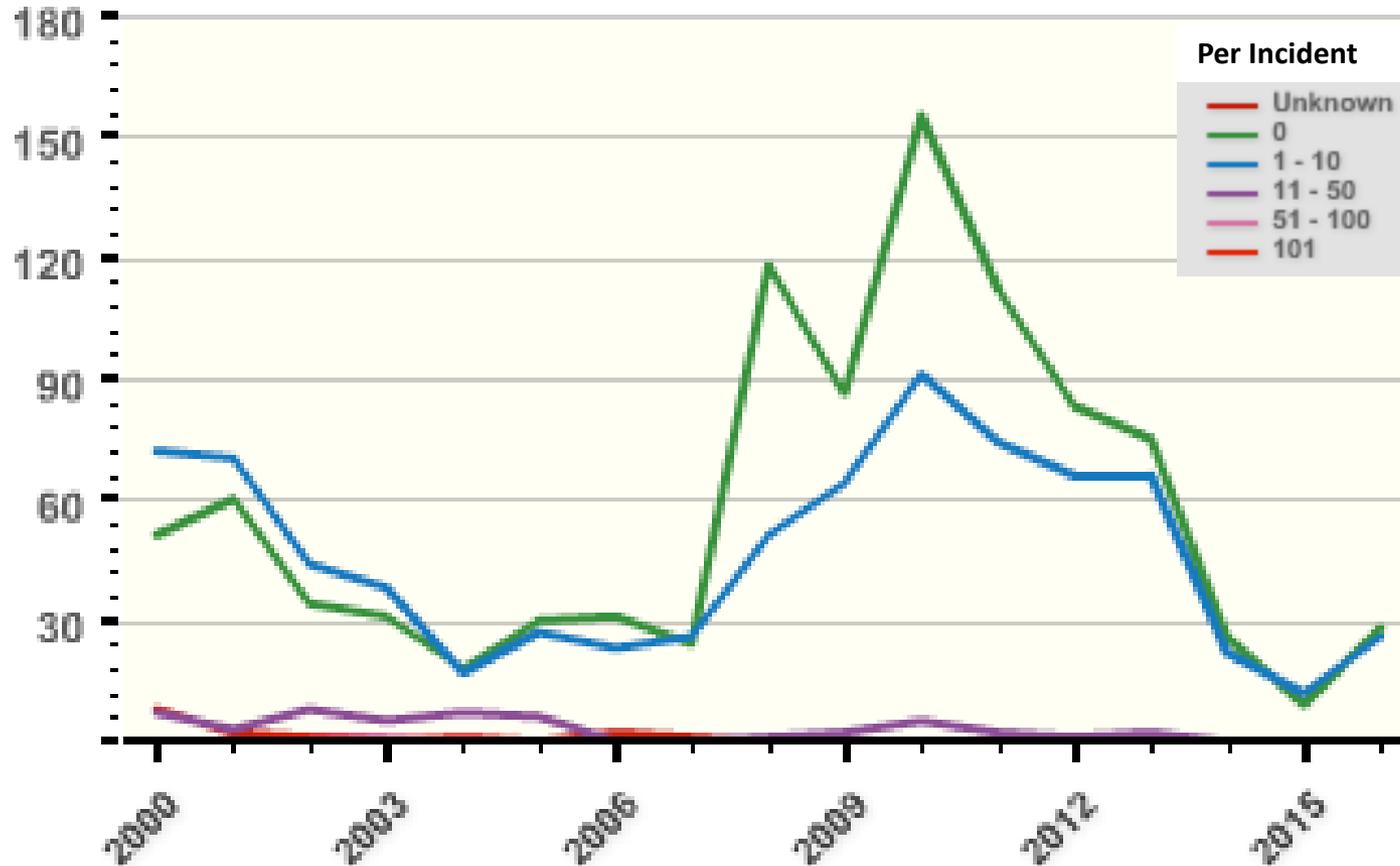


Source: START Data Base,

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dt2=all&sAttack=1,0

Russia Fatalities: 2000-2016

Russia 606 Incidents



Source: START Data Base,

http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?charttype=bar&chart=target&casualties_type=b&casualties_max=&start_year=2016&start_month=1&start_day=1&end_year=2016&end_month=12&end_day=31&dtp2=all&sAttack=1,0

IHS Jane's 2016 Global Attack Index – Ukraine, Russia

Ukraine

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	1,113	4,449
Non-Militant Fatalities	431	202
Non-Military Injured	1,076	772
Suicide Attacks	--	--
Groups Operating in Country from Top 10: Donetsk People's Republic, Luhansk People's Republic		

START estimates 637 incidents in 2015 and 60 in 2016

Russia

	2015	2016
Number of Attacks	54	51
Non-Militant Fatalities	24	23
Non-Military Injured	31	0
Suicide Attacks	--	--
Groups Operating in Country from Top 10: Islamic State		

START estimates 21 incidents in 2015 and in 54 2016

Source: IHS Janes, Acts of terrorism, insurgency, and violent protest recorded by Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre in 2016