



August 11, 2016

Analysis of ISIS-Inspired Terrorist Attacks in Western Countries



Religious war ISIS-style: the front page of Dabiq, ISIS's English-language publication. An ISIS operative pushes over a cross on a church steeple. The front cover reads, "Break the cross" (Dabiq #15, July 2016). The first ISIS-inspired terrorist attack of its type, carried out in a church in the French town of Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, near Rouen in Normandy, where ISIS operatives slit the throat of a priest.

The Role of ISIS-Inspired Attacks in ISIS's Anti-Western Terrorist Campaign

1. For the past year ISIS and its supporters have waged a **broad terrorist campaign against Western countries and Turkey**. They have carried out attacks in airports, hotels, tourist centers, clubs, social institutions, mass-attendance events and more. The objective of the campaign is **to terrify the West, deter Western governments from continuing their attacks on ISIS and cause economic damage**. It is also intended to raise the morale of ISIS operatives and supporters and to draw attention away from the blows inflicted on the organization in Iraq, Syria and Libya. So far it can be said that **ISIS and its supporters have successfully carried out attacks. Hundreds of civilians have been killed and wounded, extensive damage has been done to the tourist industry, and daily life in many European cities has been disrupted.**

2. Some of the attacks carried out during the past year in Europe and Turkey were planned by ISIS's headquarters in Syria. They included operational, logistic and intelligence preparations in Syria and the involvement of local terrorist networks (sometimes with participation of foreign fighters who had returned from Syria). However, **there were also attacks initiated and carried out by local operatives inspired by ISIS without the participation of ISIS headquarters or its networks** ("ISIS-inspired attacks").

3. The current wave is the second of ISIS-inspired attacks. The first wave occurred after September 2014 when the United States-led coalition began its aerial attacks on ISIS in Syria and Iraq. ISIS's attacks targeted coalition countries. Most of them were carried out in France and some in Canada, the United States, Australia and Turkey. Most of them were shooting, vehicular and stabbing attacks. **The lethal nature of the first wave of ISIS-inspired attacks and their media coverage were considerably less than those of the current wave.**¹

4. The ISIS-inspired attacks of the first wave were responses to the attacks carried out by the United States and the West. They were apparently the result of ISIS's inability to carry out more complex attacks, which would require operational, logistic and intelligence preparations. However, **during the past year**, since ISIS extended its operational capabilities and developed a network of terrorist operatives in Western Europe, its attacks have become **more thoroughly planned and more complex**. The combined terrorist attack in Paris (November 13, 2015), whose main target was the **Bataclan theatre**, was the beginning of a series of planned and combined attacks. They included attacks at the airport in Brussels, a Brussels subway station, the Turkish international airport and tourist sites in Istanbul.

¹ For further information, see the March 4, 2015 bulletin "The International Coalition Campaign against ISIS – Initial Analysis," at <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20780>

5. **At the same time, during the past two months there has been a wave of ISIS-inspired terrorist attacks. We do not yet have a data base large enough for an in-depth analysis**, but an initial examination of the attacks reveals certain common aspects: they have been **initiated** (in most cases) by **lone** (sometimes two) **terrorists**; and in most cases the terrorists were **young Muslims** who were superficially exposed to **ISIS's ideology** or influenced by ISIS's calls to carry out terrorist attacks in Western countries. Most of the attacks were carried out in provincial cities and not in capitals or large cities. The **Internet and social networks were the main platforms for transmitting ISIS propaganda**, which fell on willing ears even of young Muslims who led completely secular lives.

ISIS Calls for Terrorist Attacks in the West

In April and May 2016 ISIS initiated a campaign **calling on its supporters to attack civilians in the West** (the "Crusader" countries). In ITIC assessment the campaign was aimed at deterring Western countries from attacking the organization and at the same time raising the morale of ISIS supporters in the wake of the blows suffered in its "core countries" (Syria and Iraq). In ITIC assessment **the current wave of ISIS-inspired attacks was the result of the campaign.**

7. As part of the campaign, two appeals issued by **ISIS spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani** were prominent:

- 1) On **April 16, 2016**, he appealed to every faithful Muslim "**to kill the infidels: Americans, French and their allies.**" He said that anyone who did not have access to a gun or bomb was to use any other means at his disposal, **including throwing stones, slitting throats, carrying out vehicular attacks, and burning houses and businesses** (Akhbar Dawlat al-Islam, April 16, 2016).



Abu Muhammad al-Adnani calls on Muslims to kill the infidels, the Americans, the French and their allies (Akhbar Dawlat al-Islam, April 16, 2016).

2) On **May 21, 2016**, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani launched a new campaign of threats (in several languages, including English, French and German), appealing to ISIS supporters in Europe and America **to attack and kill the Christian "Crusaders."** **There was no need, he said, to hesitate to kill civilians, because there were no innocent people in the "Crusader" countries.** "Know," he said, "that in the countries of the Crusaders...no blood is immune and **there is no such thing as innocence...**Know that attacking those considered civilians **it is more desirable and beneficial for us because it hurts them more.**"

8. In retrospect it can be said that Abu Muhammad al-Adnani's appeals to Muslims in the West fell on **willing ears and influenced those who carried out ISIS-inspired attacks** during nearly two months. **Most of them were in France** and the remainder in Germany, Belgium, the United States and Israel. **ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks.** Propaganda materials and recordings made on cell phones before the attacks were found in the possession of some of the terrorists, indicating an **affiliation with ISIS.** (For a description of ISIS-inspired attacks see the Appendix.) In July 2016 a new issue of Dabiq, ISIS's English-language publication, was circulated. Most of it was devoted to glorifying the attacks recently carried out in Western countries and the terrorists involved, and called for more.

Profile of the Terrorists Who Carry Out ISIS-Inspired Attacks

9. This study analyzes **eight terrorist attacks** carried out in recent months in Western countries in response to Abu Muhammad al-Adnani's appeals:

- 1) The machete attack near the police station in Charleroi, Belgium (August 6, 2016).
- 2) The slitting of the throat of the French priest in a church in the town of Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, near Rouen in Normandy, France (July 26, 2016).
- 3) The suicide bombing attack in the southern German town of Ansbach (July 25, 2016).
- 4) The axe attack on train passengers near Würzburg, in southern Germany (July 18, 2016).
- 5) The Bastille Day vehicular attack on the promenade in Nice (July 14, 2016).
- 6) The murder of the French police officer and his partner in the town of Magnanville, near Paris (July 13, 2016).
- 7) The mass-murder at the nightclub in Orlando, Florida (July 12, 2016).
- 8) The shooting attack at the Sarona Market commercial and entertainment complex in the heart of Tel Aviv (June 8, 2016)

10. The initial examination of the profile of the eight terrorist operatives who carried out the aforementioned attacks revealed the following:

- 1) **General background:**
 - A) Most of the terrorists were **young, single men between the ages of 17 and 29**. The exceptions were the terrorists in Nice (who was 31 years old and had three children) and Charleroi (who was 33 years old). Most of them were of **second or third generation North African extraction** (in France) or of **Syrian, Pakistani and Afghan extraction** (in Germany and the United States). Two (in Germany) were refugees who had not yet received permanent resident status. One (in Belgium) was in the country illegally.

B) **B. Most of the terrorists had criminal records** and had been imprisoned for various offences. Five of them (in France) were being monitored by the authorities but **no incriminating evidence had been found as grounds for arrest**. The murderer in Orlando had been investigated by the FBI and no cause was found to continue monitoring him.

2) **Motivation:**

A. **Most of the terrorists did not lead strict religious Muslim lives**. On the contrary, most of their neighbors and acquaintances said **they lived normal secular lives and dressed accordingly**. In one instance (Nice) the police hypothesized that following instructions from ISIS, the terrorist pretended to live a secular life in order to avoid arousing suspicion.² Acquaintances of one of the terrorists from Normandy sensed he was becoming radicalized about two weeks before the attack, but did not think to alert the authorities (such a short period of time makes it difficult to identify a terrorist).

B. Apparently the terrorists had **viewed and been influenced by many propaganda videos** produced in various languages and uploaded to the Internet and social networks. The videos **encouraged Muslims to carry out terrorist attacks** in their home countries [instead of joining the fighting in Syria and Iraq]. Some of them made their own videos on their cell phones before their carried out attacks, **using the same terminology employed by Abu Muhammad al-Adnani**. They were attracted by the idea of the Islamic State without examining its Salafist-jihadi ideology in depth.

3) **Lack of combat experience in the ranks of ISIS: None of the terrorists had gone to Syria or Iraq to fight**. Only one (one of those who slit the priest's throat) had tried and failed to go to Syria to fight in the ranks of ISIS. Thus the terrorists who carried out the ISIS-inspired attacks **did not have military experience and in most cases prepared the attacks themselves**. That might be because ISIS prefers to use operatives with combat experience to carry out more thoroughly planned combined attacks, rather than ISIS-inspired attacks.

² ISIS issued an instruction booklet for Muslims in Europe about how to behave in public to avoid suspicion. It can easily be downloaded from the Internet.

- 4) **General characteristics of the attacks:**
- A. In most instances the attacks were carried out in **crowded locations** to harm as many people as possible.
 - B. Most of the attacks (with the exception of Nice and the Tel Aviv Sarona Market) were carried out using **easily available weapons** (knives, axe, machete). They did not require extensive preparation and were not dependent on external support.
 - C. **The attacks in the Sarona Market and possibly in Nice required logistic assistance.** The assistance was apparently local but not necessarily connected to ISIS's networks.
 - D. The locations of the attacks were apparently **not prepared far in advance** and at least some of them were **spontaneous**. In most instances the terrorists chose **familiar locations near where they lived** (with the exception of the attack in Tel Aviv, whose perpetrators came from Hebron).
- 5) **Locations of the attacks:** Three of the attacks were carried out in **France**, two in **Germany**, and one each in **Belgium, the United States and Israel**. Almost all (with the exception of Tel Aviv) were carried out in **provincial cities and towns** rather than in capitals or major cities. **The wide distribution** of the attacks over large areas is another factor making it difficult to prevent them.
- 6) **Swearing allegiance to ISIS:** Most of the terrorists had sworn allegiance to ISIS close to the time of or during the attack. Two exceptions were the terrorists who carried out the attacks in the United States or Tel Aviv.
- 7) **Claiming responsibility: ISIS publicly claimed responsibility for all the attacks** (except the one in Tel Aviv) even when there **was no evidence of a direct connection with ISIS** (the attacks in Nice and the United States, for example). The wording of the claims was similar and used the same terminology as Abu Muhammad al-Adnani used in his appeals for attack.

Dealing with ISIS-Inspired Terrorist Attacks

11. **The ISIS-inspired attacks pose a unique challenge for Western intelligence agencies.** That is because the terrorists who carry out them out act independently, spontaneously, over a wide geographical area, and without logistic, intelligence or operational support from ISIS's headquarters or local networks. Moreover, they are home grown, speak the local language and easily blend into the local population. **Thus, to address the challenge a new methodology has to be devised for the collection and analysis of relevant intelligence.**

12. However, the difficulties facing the West are **not limited to intelligence and security.** ISIS's terrorist campaign, which includes ISIS-inspired attacks, **also poses political, societal and legal challenges** for the West, and requires a thorough reexamination of relations with the Muslim communities in Western countries. In responding to the challenge, fundamental tensions exist between **the needs of security and the rights of the individuals.** The tensions are especially prominent in Western Europe and **make it difficult provide an effective response to ISIS's terrorist campaign.**

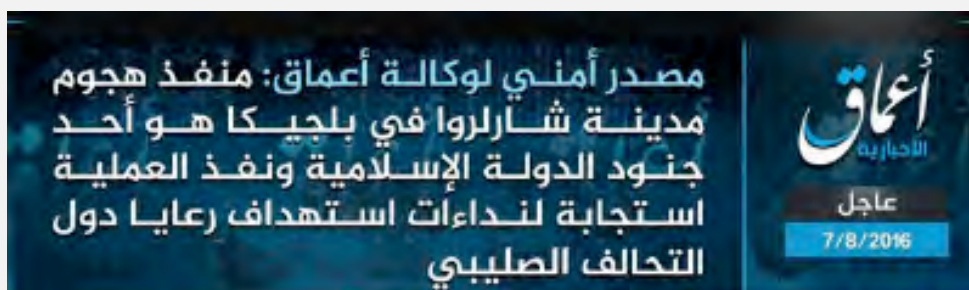
Appendix

ISIS-Inspired Terrorist Attacks in Western Countries Carried Out by ISIS Supporters in Recent Months

The Machete Attack near the Police Station in Charleroi, Belgium

1. On August 6, 2016 a terrorist shouting "Allahu akbar" carried out an attack using a machete near the police station in the city of Charleroi in Belgium, wounding two female police officers. He was shot by policemen and later died. The attacker was 33 years old, of Algerian extraction, and had been in Belgium illegally since 2012. His full name has not been made public. He was known to the authorities for criminal activity. The Belgian prime minister defined the event as a terrorist attack, adding that Belgium would increase security around its police stations (Reuters, August 7, 2016).

2. **Amaq**, ISIS's news agency, **claimed the terrorist who carried out the attack in Charleroi was one of "the Islamic State's soldiers."** According to the announcement he had acted in response to the calls to attack citizens of the countries belonging to the "Crusader coalition" (Amaq, August 6, 2016). The wording of the announcement was similar to former ISIS claims of responsibility issued after other ISIS-inspired attacks carried out in recent months in the West.



The ISIS claim of responsibility for the attack in Charleroi, Belgium (Haq, August 6, 2016).

The Execution of the Priest in Normandy, France

3. **On the morning of July 26, 2016, two men armed with knives slit the throat of a priest in a church** in Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, near Rouen (in Normandy). The terrorists, who identified themselves as ISIS supporters, broke into the church during morning mass. They forced the 86 year-old priest to kneel and slit his throat, filming the murder as it was committed.



Jacques Hamel, the priest whose throat was slit in an ISIS attack (Al-Arabiya, July 26, 2016).

4. The terrorists took five (or four) hostages, two of them nuns, and held them for almost two hours. Another nun, in the church at the time of the attack, escaped. Police called to the scene killed the two terrorists as they tried to flee. According to eyewitness accounts the two shouted "ISIS" and "Allahu akbar" as they entered and tried to leave the church.

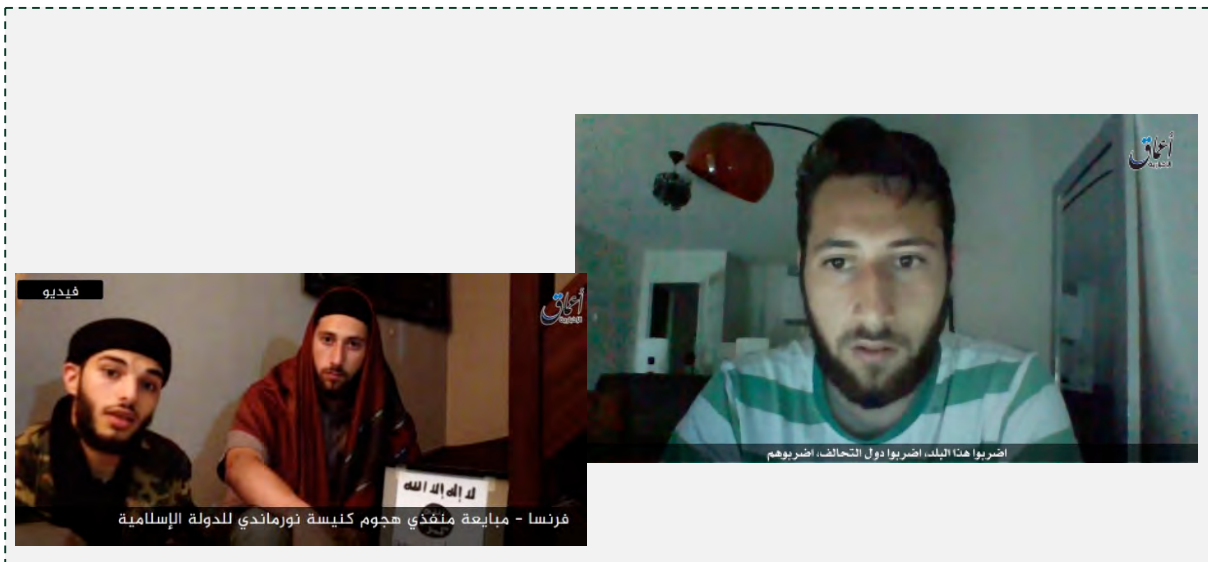
5. The two terrorists were identified as:

1) **Adel Karmish**, 19, born in Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, to parents from North Africa. He lived near the church. **During 2015 he twice attempted to go to Syria to join the ranks of the jihadist fighters.** The first time he was apprehended by the German authorities and the second by the Turks, who sent him back to France. In March 2015 he was released and fitted with an electronic ankle bracelet which he apparently removed before the attack. He identified himself in an ISIS video as Abu Jalil al-Hanafi.



ISIS terrorist Adel Karmish (Al-Ikhbaria al-Tunisia, July 27, 2016)

2) **Nabil Abdel Malik Petitjean (Abu Omar)**, 19, from Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray. Since June 29, 2016 he had been under surveillance by the French intelligence services and his name was on a list of Muslim extremists. On July 28, 2016, ISIS's Amaq news agency issued a video in French with Arabic subtitles recorded by Malik Petitjean, **apparently with his cell phone**. In the video he called on Muslims to attack France and other countries in the international coalition fighting ISIS (Amaq, July 28, 2016). Another video was issued of Petitjean and Karmish before the attack. It showed Petitjean holding a picture of an ISIS insignia while the two of them swore allegiance of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (ISIS blog since removed, July 18, 2016; Al-Arabiya in English, July 27, 2016).



Left: Petitjean and Karmish swear allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (ISIS blog since removed, July 18, 2016; Al-Arabiya in English, July 27, 2016). Right: Abdel Malik Petitjean in a video before the attack, calling on Muslims to attack France and other countries in the international coalition (Amaq, July 28, 2016).

6. **ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack.** The organization issued an announcement claiming that the terrorists who had carried out the attack in Normandy were "soldiers of the Islamic State." It also claimed that they had acted in response to the [ISIS] call to attack the "Crusader" coalition states (Amaq, July 26, 2016).



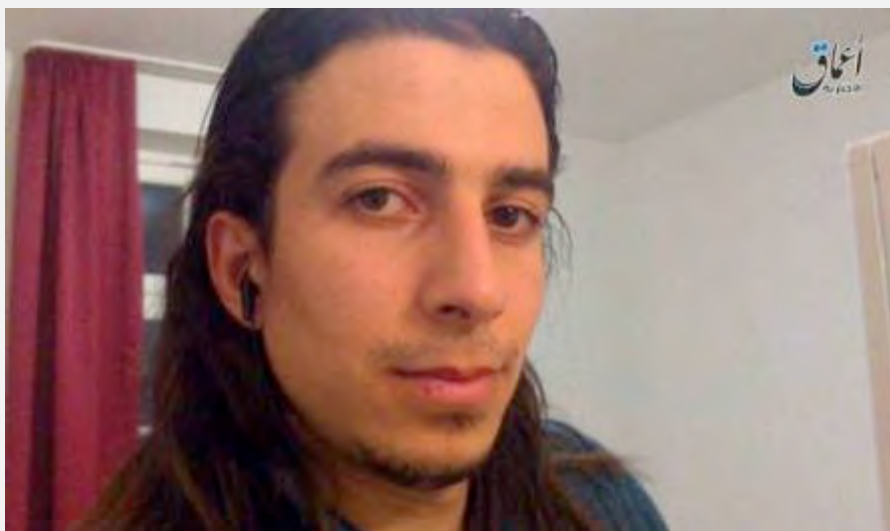
ISIS's claim of responsibility for the attack in France (Amaq, July 26, 2016)

The Suicide Bombing Attack in Ansbach, Germany

7. On the evening of **July 25, 2016**, there was a suicide bombing attack in the city of Ansbach in south Germany. **A young Syrian refugee blew himself** up at the entrance to a restaurant after he had tried unsuccessfully to enter a music festival. The festival was held near the restaurant and 2000 were expected to attend, but the young Syrian

was not allowed to enter. Fifteen people were injured in the attack, three of them critically.

8. The terrorist who carried out the attack was **Mohammad Dalil**, 27, who had arrived in Germany two years previously and petitioned for refugee status. A year ago his request was denied by the German authorities. He remained in Germany illegally and was about to be deported to Bulgaria.



Mohammad Dalil, who carried out the suicide bombing attack in Ansbach (Amaq, July 27, 2016).

9. On July 25, 2016, ISIS's Amaq agency issued an announcement claiming responsibility for the suicide bombing attack in Ansbach, also claiming that the terrorist was "a soldier of the Islamic State" and that the attack was a response to the call to harm the members of the coalition fighting against ISIS (Amaq, July 25, 2016).



ISIS's claim of responsibility for the attack in Germany (Amaq, July 25, 2016)

10. On July 26, 2016, **Amaq issued a video made by Mohammad Dalil before the attack, apparently using a cell phone** (similar to the video filmed by the terrorist who carried out the attack in Wuerzburg, Germany; see below). The video was on one of two cell phones found in his apartment after the attack, along with a laptop with instructions downloaded from the Internet about making explosives.

11. The video shows a masked Muhammad Dalil swearing allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He also announces his intention to sacrifice himself for the sake of Allah in an attack in Ansbach in response to the "crimes" committed by the coalition, of which Germany is a member. He appeals to the citizens of Germany saying, "...You will not enjoy life as long as you fight the Islamic State...We will blow up your houses...This is an action using a bomb...There will be other bombs..." He also calls on Muslims to continue striking Germans (Amaq, July 26, 2016).

Axe Attack near Wuerzburg, Germany

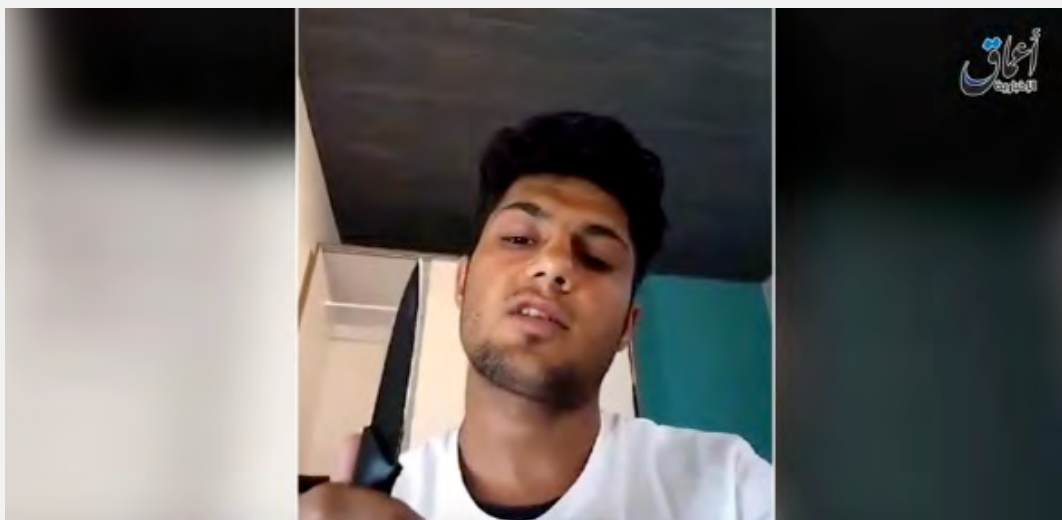
12. On the night of **July 18, 2016**, a young man **attacked train passengers with an axe** (he was also armed with a knife). The attack was carried out on a train southeast of the city of Wuerzburg in Bavaria, Germany. Local police shot and killed him after he escaped from the train. He wounded five members of a family from Hong Kong, two of them critically. Fourteen passengers were treated for shock. Eye witnesses reported that during the attack he shouted "Allahu akbar."



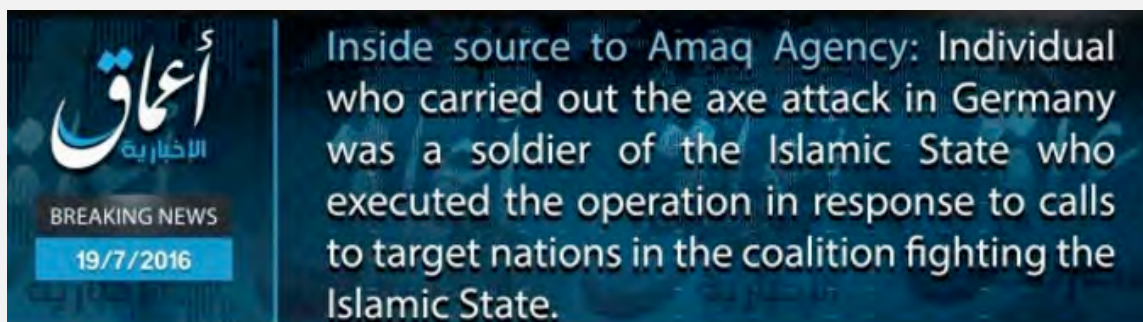
Left: The scene of the attack in daylight. Right: The axe-wielding terrorist captured on film by a security camera (Al-Ikhbaria al-Tunisia, July 27, 2016).

13. According to the German authorities the terrorist was **Reza Khan Ahmadzai**, called **Muhammad Riyad** by ISIS, 17 years old. He represented himself as an asylum seeker from Afghanistan, but according to the German authorities he was apparently Pakistani. He migrated to Germany about two years ago and lived on a farm with adoptive parents. **An ISIS flag was found in his room, along with a letter to his father saying goodbye.** There were also documents indicating he came from Pakistan, as well as instructions on where to go in Germany to better his chances of being allowed by the German authorities to remain in the country. On his Facebook page he wrote in English, "Life is too short to learn German."

14. ISIS said in an announcement that he was **"a soldier of the Islamic State" who carried out the attack in response to the calls to attack the coalition countries fighting the Islamic State.** On July 19, 2016, Amaq issued a video in which Ahmadzai calls himself **Muhammad Riyad**. He says, "I want to carry out an action of self-sacrifice in Germany for the sake of Allah. Oh infidels, if Allah so wills it, your time is over. The time in which you [can] come to our countries and kill our men, women and children [is over] ...The soldiers of the Caliphate will come to you, slaughter you in your homes and occupy your homes and bases. **I will butcher you in your homes and in your streets and will make you forget the attack in France** [a reference to the vehicular attack in Nice]. **I will butcher you with this knife** [waving a knife] and **slit your throats with an axe...**" He calls on other Muslims to awaken and swear allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He ends the video saying, **"Fight the infidels in your [own] countries"** (Amaq, July 19, 2016).



From the video recorded by the terrorist calling himself Muhammad Riyad (Amaq, July 19, 2016).



ISIS's claim that Ahmadzai was "a soldier of the Islamic State."

Vehicular attack in Nice, France

15. On **July 14, 2016**, a terrorist carried out a vehicular attack on the seaside promenade in Nice, **driving a refrigerator truck into the crowd celebrating Bastille Day**. He sped along two kilometers, striking everyone in his path. He also fired several shots at three policemen. The police returned his fire and pursued the truck, which drove 300 meters before the driver was killed by police fire. **Eighty-four people were killed and 202 were injured** (20 of them critically). The terrorist rented the truck two days before the attack and parked it on a street for nine hours before he used it to mow down the crowd on the promenade.



Left: The bodies of the dead lying in the street (YouTube). Right: The truck used by the terrorist (Twitter).

16. The terrorist was identified as **Mohamed Salmene Lahouaiej Bouhlel**, a French citizen born in Tunisia, 31 years old, who lived in Nice and had three small children. The Tunisian authorities reported that he left Tunisia in 2005 and returned for a visit in 2012. He married a French citizen of Tunisian origin in France but at the time of his death they were in the process of divorcing. He worked as a messenger and was known to the police as a felon, especially for crimes of property and violence. He had been convicted five times. In March 2016 he was sentenced to six months in prison for use of weapons. According to his father, he had psychological problems and had undergone psychiatric treatment. Although he was known to the police, the French security services had no information linking him to religious extremism. According to initial reports he started becoming more religious only two weeks before the attack, and until then had lived a life of dissipation, inappropriate according to religious standards.



French residency card of Mohamed Salmene Lahouaiej Bouhlel (Twitter)

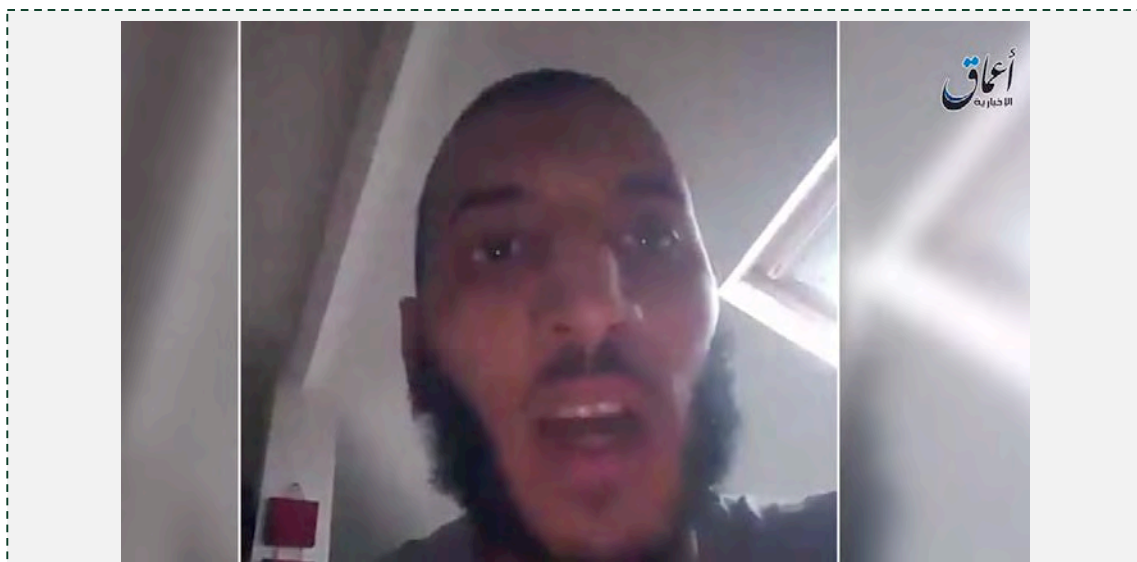
17. Two days after the attack Amaq claimed it had been carried out by "a soldier of the Islamic State" in response to the calls to attack "infidels" where they lived. According to the French authorities he was influenced by ISIS propaganda although they have no evidence linking him directly to ISIS or any other Salafist-jihadi organization. The French authorities have suggested that he had lived a secular life as ISIS sometimes instructs its Salafist-jihadi operatives, to avoid arousing the suspicions of the police (which appears in ISIS's instruction booklet and as the terrorists who carried out attacks in Paris and Brussels also apparently lived).

The Murder of the French Police Officer and His Partner in Magnanville, France

18. On **July 13, 2016**, a French citizen of Moroccan extractions stabbed a police captain and his partner to death in the town of Magnanville, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Paris. The terrorist lay in wait for the officer (a deputy commander of the regional police station) and stabbed him several times when he came home from work. He then abducted the officer's partner and son and held them hostage. After unsuccessful negotiations the police broke into the house and killed the terrorist. The officer's partner had also been killed and their three year-old son was rescued.

19. The French police reported the terrorist **was Larossi Abdallah (Abballa)**, 25 years old, born in France, of Moroccan extraction, and who lived in one of the suburbs of Paris. In 2013 he was sentenced to three years in prison for **membership in a terrorist organization that aided jihad fighters who wanted to go to Pakistan and Afghanistan**. The prosecutor general of Paris announced that investigators had found a list of people in his possession whom he was planning to kill, among them journalists. On his Facebook page he called himself **Muhammad Ali**. He was on the French authorities' surveillance list.

20. ISIS's Amaq agency issued a video taken by Larossi Abdallah on **his cell phone in which he documented the attack**. It also showed him swearing allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and quoting the Islamic oral tradition (hadiths) in praise of jihad. He called on the Islamic nation to "fight against dictators" and called on Muslims imprisoned in France to be patient (Amaq, June 14, 2016). He spoke in French and Arabic.



Larossi Abdallah swearing allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a video taken with his cell phone (Amaq, June 14, 2016).

Shooting Attack in Orlando, Florida, USA

21. On **June 12, 2016**, a mass-casualty shooting attack was carried out at the LGBT Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. **Forty-nine people were killed and dozens were injured**. At around 0200 in the morning the terrorist exchanged fire with a security guard and then entered the club armed with an assault rifle, a handgun and explosives. He barricaded himself inside and took hostages. After three hours the police shot and killed the terrorist.

22. The terrorist was **Omar Sadiqi Mateen**, 29 years old, an American citizen born in New York, of Afghan extraction. He did not have a criminal record, but had weapons training and a gun permit. The FBI reported that he had been investigated by the agency in 2013 and 2014 after he expressed support for Islamic extremists. As the investigation did not reveal significant evidence linking him to terrorist activity at the time, he was released. He apparently acted alone. A short time before the attack he called 911 and swore allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

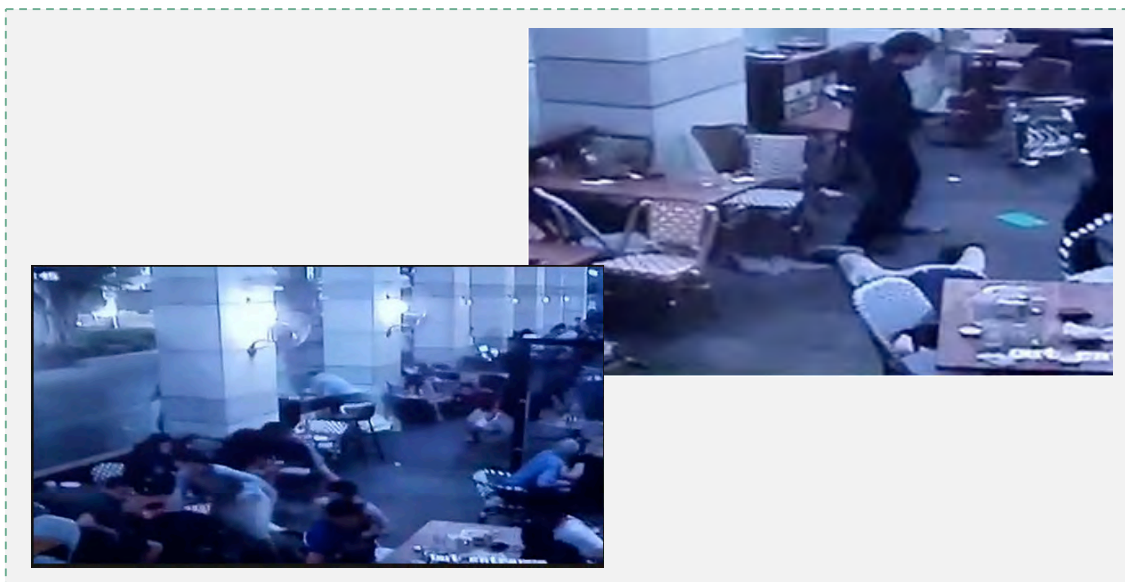
23. A few hours after the attack ISIS's Amaq news agency issued an announcement claiming that an ISIS operative had carried out the attack. In a video released on June 13, 2016, the Islamic State praised Omar Mateen and his attack, saying, "He stormed into the midst of the American Crusaders, gave them what they deserved and spilled their blood...Through him Allah brought healing to the hearts of jihad fighters everywhere..." In ITIC assessment such an announcement does not prove that the terrorist who carried out the attack was an ISIS operative and that ISIS had planned it. It can be assumed that the terrorist, and others like him, were inspired by ISIS and by its calls to carry out attacks in the United States and Western Europe.



Left: ISIS's claim that a "soldier of the Islamic State" carried out the attack in the nightclub in Orlando, Florida (Haq, June 13, 2016). Right: Omar Sadiqi Mateen, who carried out the terrorist attack (Haq, June 12, 2016).

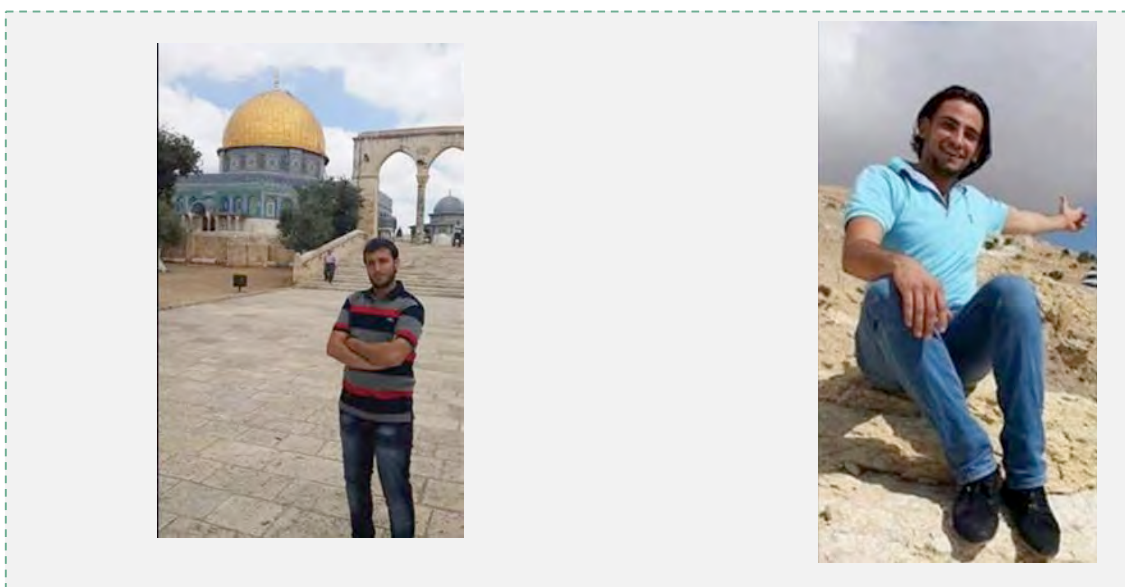
Shooting Attack in the Sarona Market in Tel Aviv, Israel

24. On the evening of **June 8, 2016**, two terrorists wearing suits and carrying briefcases entered one of the restaurants in the Sarona Market commercial and entertainment complex in Tel Aviv. They looked around, went outside, sat at a sidewalk table near the entrance and ordered beverages. A short time later they took improvised Karl Gustav sub-machine guns out of their briefcases and opened fire at the people in the restaurant. Security guards stationed nearby shot at them, hitting one in the leg. The other escaped and was apprehended a short time later on a nearby street. **The terrorists killed four people and wounded seven**, three of them critically. The two terrorists were detained. One of them was hospitalized after having been wounded by the security forces.



The scene of the attack captured by the security cameras (June 8, 2016).

25. The two terrorists were cousins from **the village of Yatta (near Hebron)**, neither with a security record. The moving spirit behind the attack was **Khaled Muhammad Musa Makhamra**, 21 years old, who had studied electrical engineering at Mutah University in Kerak, Jordan. While studying in Jordan he was attracted to the Muslim Brotherhood (Facebook page of the Hamas movement in Yatta, June 9, 2016). The other terrorist was his cousin, **Muhammad Ahmed Musa Makhamra**, also 21 years old.



Left: Terrorist Khaled Muhammad Musa Makhamra visits the Temple Mount. Right: Terrorist Muhammad Ahmed Musa Makhamra (Facebook page of the Hamas movement in Yatta, June 9, 2016).

26. The indictments handed down against the two revealed additional information about their links to ISIS. According to the indictment, **the attack was inspired by ISIS**

after Khaled Makhamra had been influenced by its ideology during his studies in Jordan. He returned to Yatta in January 2016 and with friends decided to carry out an attack inspired by ISIS. **That was done without their having been officially recruited by the organization.** The two were accompanied by a third terrorist who supplied them with the weapons. At the last minute they did not allow him to participate because he owed money (which prevented him, according to Islam, from becoming a shaheed).

27. The indictment revealed the following:

1) **Preparations:** The three terrorists began planning the attack in January 2016. **Initially they planned to carry out a shooting attack inside a railway car.** To that end they collected information about train schedules, routes, and railway station entrances and exits. They finally decided to carry out the attack on the **Tel Aviv-Haifa line.** They purchased suits, watches, briefcases and two improvised sub-machine guns manufactured in their village. In addition, they bought **rat poison, intending to coat their knives with it to make the wounds they inflicted more lethal.**

2) **Arrival at the target site:** Their arrival at the Sarona Market commercial and entertainment complex was a **chance occurrence.** They were infiltrated into Israeli territory by an accomplice who customarily illegally drove Palestinians through a hole in a fence in the South Mt. Hebron region. From there they went to a safe house in the Israeli village of Segev Shalom. Some hours later they went to Beersheba and planned to take the train from there. They changed their plans at the last minute because there was a security check at the entrance to the train station. They took a taxi to Tel Aviv and got out near the Shalom train station in the center of Tel Aviv. They asked passersby where there were restaurants and coffee shops, and were directed to the Sarona Market.