



December 18, 2016

Following the campaign for Mosul, ISIS has been highly motivated to carry out terrorist attacks around the globe. Despite several "successes," so far ISIS has not succeeded in creating a chain reaction of attacks that would detract attention from its growing difficulties in Iraq and Syria.



ISIS propaganda to supporters abroad urging them to carry out stabbing attacks (Cover of issue #2 of Rumiyah, an ISIS publication, October 4, 2016).

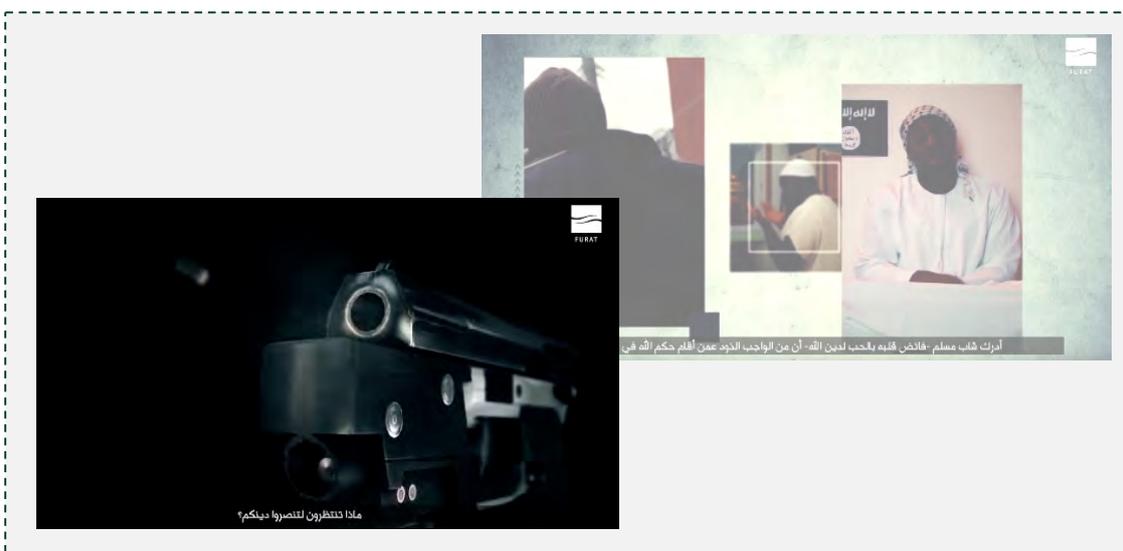
Overview

1. In the two months since the beginning of the campaign for Mosul, ISIS has been **promoting terrorist attacks around the globe**, especially in the West and in other countries fighting it. ISIS initiated a media campaign which **repeatedly calls on its supporters to carry out local attacks to support ISIS in its fight against its enemies** ["ISIS-inspired attacks"]. ISIS has also employed skilled operatives in its terrorist networks abroad **to carry out mass-killing attacks in crowded locations**. The most serious attack for which ISIS has claimed responsibility was in the Coptic cathedral in Cairo.¹ Local ISIS supporters inspired by ISIS also carried out attacks in Kenya, Germany and possibly the United States. On the other hand, mass-killing attacks planned for France, Russia, Albania and Saudi Arabia were prevented by local security services. **ISIS can be expected to continue attempting attacks, especially during the upcoming holiday season.**

¹ The vehicular attack in the Christmas market in Berlin on December 19, 2016, which killed 12 people may be another ISIS "success," if it is verified that the terrorist was inspired by or received instructions from ISIS.

2. ISIS's high motivation to carry out attacks abroad is the direct result of **the increasing difficulties it faces in Iraq and Syria. It wants to prove it has retained operational capabilities and can still carry out attacks that will cause pain to the countries fighting against it, to draw attention to their internal arenas and deter them from continuing to combat ISIS.** To increase its supporters' motivation, in its media campaign ISIS stresses that **the Islamic Caliphate belongs to the entire Muslim nation**, including Muslims who do not live in the Caliphate and fight to defend it. Therefore, attacks in countries beyond the borders of the Caliphate make a **significant contribution to ISIS's military effort, and ISIS's supporters should regard such attacks as equal to fighting in Syria or Iraq.**

3. To promote its campaign ISIS's media network issued a series of videos and articles which appeared in its various publications (See **Appendix A**). They urge ISIS supporters around the world to join its **military campaign**, making the fighting in Syria and Iraq part of its comprehensive campaign against the West ("the Crusaders"). Some of the videos and articles appear **in the languages of ISIS's target audiences** (including English, French and Turkish). For ISIS, general calls are insufficient, and it posts **detailed instructions for stabbing and vehicular attacks, and how to make explosives at home using easily-obtainable materials** (See **Appendix B**). In some of the videos operatives who have already carried out attacks appear, as do ISIS supporters, appealing to Muslims to follow in their footsteps.



Left: Appeal to British Muslims in an ISIS video: "Why do you delay support for your religion?" as a bullet is fired in slow motion. Right: Amedy Coulibaly, the terrorist who carried out the attack at the kosher supermarket in Paris, in the same video, represented as a role model (Haq, November 27, 2016).

4. An analysis of terrorist attacks that were both prevented and carried out by ISIS over the past few months indicates that **so far the organization has failed to ignite**

a **chain reaction of "inspired attacks,"** despite repeated appeals to its supporters. In addition, most of the attempts of skilled operatives to carry out mass-casualty attacks were prevented (including attacks at soccer games in Saudi Arabia and Albania, the latter planned for a game between Albania and Israel). ISIS's greatest so-called "success" so far was **the suicide bombing attack at the Coptic cathedral in Cairo, which killed 25 and was widely covered by the media** (for terrorist attacks prevented and carried out in recent months, see **Appendix C**).

5. The difficulties facing ISIS indicate **a gap between its high motivation for a series of attacks on the one hand, and the capabilities of its operatives and the desire of its supporters on the other.** That is most likely the result of the **decrease of ISIS's operational capabilities** caused by the pressures on it (including after the killing of experienced, skilled senior operatives who were part of its terrorist attack network abroad, and the increase of difficulties in crossing the Syrian-Turkish border). Additionally, **there has apparently been an improvement in the preventive and intelligence activities of the countries fighting ISIS.** That has been manifested by the prevention of terrorist attacks in Western Europe, Russia and the Balkans. The recent appeal of ISIS's Euphrates Province to Muslims in Britain asking **"Why do delay support for your religion?"** may indicate **a certain lack of patience and perhaps even disappointment of the ISIS leadership with the lack of response to its calls for terrorist attacks abroad, especially in the West** (so far).

6. **In all probability, ISIS will continue its efforts to orchestrate and persuade its supporters abroad its operatives to carry out attacks.** Some of its operatives have already been or will be dispatched from Syria, and some have already returned to their countries of origin after having fought in Syria or Iraq.² **ISIS's motivation to carry out terrorist attacks is likely to increase as pressures on it in Iraq and Syria increases.** ISIS's network of operatives and supporters in Western and other countries make it possible for the organization to carry out "inspired" and showcase attacks, although not of the scope and frequency ISIS would like. **Christmas and the New Year may be chosen as target dates because of the number of mass events held and the great media coverage such attacks would have** (the media

² According to **Dick Schoof**, Holland's National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism, intelligence experts estimate that **ISIS has between 60 and 80 ISIS operatives planted in Europe to carry out terrorist attacks.** He said ISIS called on its operatives to focus their activities on Europe and asks them not to come to Syria and Iraq, but to prepare attacks in Europe. He also said that while Holland had not been subject to terrorist attacks like France and Belgium, the possibility of attacks on Dutch soil exists (Fox News, November 19, 2016).

reported that European security officials were concerned lest attacks be carried out during the holiday season, and have taken precaution to prevent them).

Appendices

7. Three appendices follow:

A. Examples of ISIS appeals to its supporters around the globe to carry out attacks.

B. Specific instructions to ISIS supporters around the globe for carrying out attacks.

C. Examples of attacks, both carried out and prevented, during the past two months.

Appendix A

Examples of ISIS Appeals to Its Supporters around the Globe to Carry Out Attacks

1. After the campaign for Mosul began (October 17, 2016) **ISIS initiated a media campaign to encourage its supporters abroad to carry out attacks to support the organization** ("inspired attacks"). In an exceptional statement, ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi called on organization supporters and operatives to increase their activities, **especially against Turkey and Saudi Arabia.**

2. For example:

a. **On October 26, 2016**, the ISIS-affiliated Haq news agency issued a call to supporters around the world to initiate attacks against the countries fighting it. According to the call, the campaign had to be moved **to the United States and to take revenge on the Turkish army, which support the Iraqi army.** The Caliphate, it said, belonged to the entire Muslim nation, including those who could not physically live in or reach its territory (Haq, October 26, 2016).

b. **On November 2, 2016**, al-Furqan, part of ISIS's media network, issued a recording of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He **appealed to ISIS supporters abroad to escalate their activities against the coalition.** He called on operatives **to attack "secular Turkey," which, he said, had "abandoned Islam."** He also called for **operatives in Saudi Arabia to attack the "corrupt" royal family,** which was fighting against Islam in Iraq and Syria and pushing their populations toward "apostasy."

c. **On November 26, 2016**, ISIS's al-Raqqa Province issued a video in French and subtitled in English entitled "You have to fight them if you believe in the oneness of Allah." **It called on Muslims in France to carry out stabbing and IED attacks against the "infidels."** The video began with pictures of ISIS attacks accompanied by a soundtrack of a French song. One of the operatives in the video was **Abu Suleiman "the Frenchman,"** who claimed the United States, Britain and France no longer allowed Muslims to emigrate to Syria and Iraq, and therefore Muslims had to "open the gates of jihad" wherever they lived (Haq, November 26, 2016).

d. **On November 27, 2016**, ISIS's Euphrates Province in Iraq issued a video in French and subtitled in Arabic entitled "Follow in their footsteps." It showed **ISIS terrorist attacks in France, Belgium, Germany and the United States**, inspired or orchestrated by ISIS, and encouraged Muslims in Western countries to continue attacking. The narrator called on "the soldiers of the Caliphate" in **the Caucasus, Russia and Britain not to delay in supporting Muslims**. The video ended with another call to Muslims to follow in the footsteps of their brothers (Haq, November 27, 2016).

e. **On December 5, 2016, Abu Hassan al-Muhajer**, the new ISIS spokesman,³ issued his first recording. He claimed **ISIS would soon attack the "infidels" in their own lands**. He called on Muslims around the globe **to carry out attacks wherever they were located, because they could "change the balance."** Such attacks, claimed, **would force the "infidels" "to concentrate on events in their own countries** instead of focusing on fighting ISIS" (Haq, December 5, 2016).

3. It is not the first such media campaign. **In April and May 2016 ISIS waged a campaign calling on its supporters to attack civilians in Western countries**. The objective of that campaign was also to deter the West and raise the morale of ISIS supporters in the wake of the defeats suffered by the organization in Iraq and Syria. So far, **the previous campaign was more successful than the present one**. It led to eight "ISIS-inspired" terrorist attacks during a period of less two months (middle of June to the beginning of August, 2016). One of the attacks was the shooting attack in the Sarona commercial complex in the heart of Tel Aviv, carried out by two Palestinian terrorist operatives from the Hebron region who had been inspired by ISIS.⁴

³ **Abu Hassan al-Muhajer** replaced Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, responsible for ISIS propaganda, who was killed in a Syrian airstrike in August 2016.

⁴ For further information, see the August 11, 2016 bulletin, "Analysis of ISIS-Inspired Terrorist Attacks in Western Countries," at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_21050/E_144_16_422660956.pdf.

Appendix B

Specific Instructions to ISIS Supporters around the Globe for Carrying Out Attacks

1. ISIS's media campaign has been accompanied by detailed instructions in various languages for carrying out attacks. The objective is to encourage ordinary individuals without military backgrounds to carry out attacks with **simple, easily available weapons**. Special attention was given to **stabbing and vehicular attacks**.

2. Some examples:

A. On **November 26, 2016**, ISIS's al-Raqqah Province issued a **video in French and subtitled in Arabic and English** entitled "You have to fight them if you believe in the oneness of Allah." The video showed how to use knives to stab people to death. The narrator noted that a kitchen knife was easy to acquire. An operative demonstrated the execution of a prisoner who was "an agent of the Crusader coalition." He showed the locations on the victim's body most vulnerable to stab wounds. He was followed by a spokesman called **Abu al-Nour "the Syrian,"** who explained and demonstrated how to improvise explosives at home with readily-available materials (Haq, November 26, 2016).



Illustrations of how to kill with a knife, exploiting the most vulnerable locations on a victim's body (Haq, November 26, 2016).



Instructions for making a do-it-yourself bomb at home (Haq, November 26, 2016).

B. In its first three issues, ISIS's publication *Rumiyah* included a series of articles entitled "Just Terror Tactics" which gave instructions for terrorist attacks. According to an article in issue #2,⁵ which was published on October 4, 2016, every person, even if he "not a military expert or martial arts master," could carry out a "terrorist operation" and "terrorize an entire nation." Readers are encouraged to overcome their "discomfort" at the thought of "plunging a sharp object into another person's flesh." Targets could be "the average *kafir* [infidel] working his night shift, or someone walking alone in a public park or rural forested area, or someone by himself in an alley close to a night club or another place of debauchery, or even someone out for a walk in a quiet neighborhood. One should consider canals, riversides, and beaches..." Kitchen knives should not be used (dismissed as unsuitable for killing people, as they are not properly crafted), and explicit instructions are given for choosing the right kind of knife which the attacker can dispose of later and acquire another one, if he chooses to carry out a series of attacks.

⁵ <https://www.clarionproject.org/factsheets-files/Rumiyh-ISIS-Magazine-2nd-issue.pdf>



Left: Article with instructions for stabbing attacks. Right: The front cover of issue #2 of Rumiayah.

C. Issue #3 of Rumiayah, published on November 11, 2016, included an article on vehicular attacks, like the one in Nice.⁶ The article appears in English, French, German, Russian, Turkish, Turkmen, Indonesian and Pashtu, and says the following:⁷

1) "Vehicles are like knives, as they are extremely easy to acquire. But unlike knives, which if found in one's possession can be a cause for suspicion, vehicles arouse absolutely no doubts due to their widespread use throughout the world. It is for this obvious reason that using a vehicle is one of the most comprehensive methods of attack, as it presents the opportunity for just terror for anyone possessing the ability to drive a vehicle. Likewise, **it is one of the safest and easiest weapons one could employ against the *kufar*** [infidels], while being from amongst the most lethal methods of attack and the most successful in harvesting large numbers of the *kufar*."

2) **Large heavy trucks should be used because they can reach high speeds and lessen the chances for victims to escape.** Before the attacks, the driver should make sure the vehicle is roadworthy, has a full gas tank, ensure he has maps of the route to the selected target and has conducted "inconspicuous surveillance of the target," and if necessary, a secondary weapon should be attained (knife or gun). **Ideal targets are large outdoor conventions and celebrations, pedestrian-congested streets, outdoor markets, festivals, parades and political events.**

⁶ On July 14, 2016, an ISIS operative used a truck to carry out a vehicular attack on the Nice beachfront during the Bastille Day festivities. He killed 86 people and wounded more than 400.

⁷ <https://counterjihadreport.com/tag/rumiayah/>



Encouragement for vehicular attacks, from the "Just Terror Tactics" article (Rumiyah, November 11, 2016).



Left: Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, considered "an excellent target" for a terrorist attack. Right: A truck considered suitable for a vehicular attack, called "an affordable weapon" (Rumiyah #3, November 11, 2016).

3) Issue #4 of Rumiyah was published on December 7, 2016, and included an **illustrated article on how to carry out a stabbing attack**. The victim, according to the article, should be a lone individual (for a "on-going terrorist campaign") or small group of people (for a "shock attack," if the operative is capable of carrying one out). Recommendations are given where **the most vulnerable part of the body are**, what the "ideal knife" is and which knives not to use (kitchen knives of jackknives) (Twitter account of non_greasy@khabdaalluba (in Arabic), December 7, 2016).



Instructions for stabbing attacks in Rumiyah issue #4 (Twitter account of non_greasy@khabdaalluba (in Arabic), December 7, 2016).

3. Some of the videos and articles specifically mention countries where ISIS would like its supporters to focus. **The main target is currently Turkey**, which is conducting a campaign against ISIS along its border with Syria and west of the Euphrates. Other countries mentioned by name are **France, England, the United States, Russia, and the Islamic countries in the Caucasus and the Middle East** (Saudi Arabia and Egypt).

4. Examples of ISIS's repeated calls to attack Turkey:

- a. In a recorded message, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi called on ISIS operatives to attack "secular Turkey," which he accused of "abandoning Islam."
- b. ISIS's newspaper al-Naba published an article about Turkey's "crimes" against the organization, **calling for attacks in Turkey against is police, judges, military, clerics, supporters of the ruling power and Westerners in Turkey** (November 2, 2016).
- c. In the first recording issued by Abu Hassan al-Muhajer, ISIS's new spokesman, he called on ISIS operatives to **attack Turkish targets everywhere, including its various embassies and consulates**. He legitimized the attacks by stressing the fact that Turkey was fighting ISIS in Syria and Iraq (al-Nashra, December 5, 2016).
- d. An article in issue #3 of Rumiyah, published on November 11, 2016, was devoted to a call for attacks in Turkey.⁸ It shows a picture of the destruction

⁸ <https://pietervanostaeyen.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/rumiyah3en.pdf>

caused by an explosion in Diyarbakir (see below). The article calls on Muslims to fight against Turkey, especially against its leader, Erdogan: " O soldiers of the Khilafah in Turkey! O you whose path to performing *hijrah* to Dar al-Islam⁹ has been blocked by the *murtadd* [Muslims who have abandoned Islam], Turkish border patrol forces! You must strike the Turkish *taghut* [dictator] and his *murtadd* followers" (Rumiyah, November 11, 2016, pp 2-3.)

⁹ Hijrah to the location where Islam rules, i.e. the territory of the Islamic State.

Appendix C

Examples of Attacks, Both Carried Out and Prevented, during the Past Two Months

Overview

1. In recent months ISIS has claimed responsibility for attacks in Germany, Russia, the United States, Egypt and Turkey. **In some instances ISIS claimed the attacks were carried out in response to ISIS's call to harm the coalition countries.** It is likely that the attacks (or at least most of them) for which ISIS claimed responsibility were in fact carried out by its operatives or supporters. In some instances attacks were prevented (in Albania, Russia, France and Holland), and in one case, in Albania, an attack was prevented at an Albanian-Israeli soccer game.

2. Two conspicuous ISIS attacks were in **Egypt** (where an ISIS suicide bomber blew up a Coptic cathedral in Cairo, killing at least 25 people) and in **Turkey** (where a car bomb exploded in front of the police station in Diyarbakir, killing at least 13). However, ISIS failed to carry out attacks it had planned in the West, Russia, Albania, the Balkans and Saudi Arabia. That was probably the result of the blow ISIS's operational capabilities have suffered **and a function of the effective preventative activities and improved intelligence collection of the various security services.** ISIS supporters in various countries did, in fact, carry out "inspired" attacks (especially stabbing attacks), but **they were not widely covered by the international media or cause the chain reaction of terrorist attacks ISIS was hoping for.**

Attacks that Were Carried Out

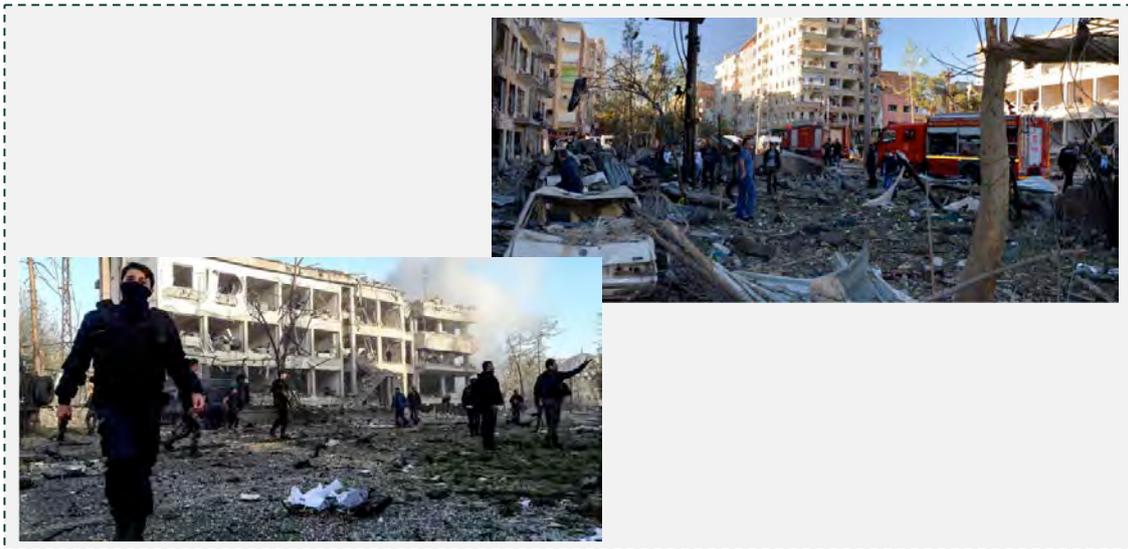
3. Various terrorist attacks for which ISIS claimed responsibility:

a. **Stabbing attack in Kenya** – On October 27, 2016, Kenyan stabbed a police officer securing the visa department in the American embassy in **Nairobi**. He was shot and killed. He was identified as coming from the Wajir region, on the Somali border, where the Somali al-Shaab Islamist organization is recruiting operatives (New York Times and cbsnews.com, October 27, 2016). **ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack**, stating that "the man who carried out the stabbing attack against one of the guards at the embassy of the United States in Nairobi was a soldier of the Islamic State, answered the calls to harm the countries of the Crusader coalition" (Amaq, October 29, 2016).

b. **Stabbing attack in Germany** – On October 30, 2016, it was reported that in **Hamburg** an unidentified person stabbed a 16 year-old boy a number of times and pushed his 15 year-old female companion into the river. The boy died; the girl managed to escape. According to the Hamburg police department, the stabber was of Middle Eastern appearance, about 23 to 25 years old, and bearded. The attack was not attributed to ISIS (Reuters in Arabic, October 30 2016). **On October 30, 2016, ISIS claimed that "a soldier of the Islamic State" had stabbed two people in Hamburg.**

c. **Vehicular attack in the United States** – On November 28, 2016, an immigrant from Somalia ran into and then used a meat cleaver to attack a man at **Ohio University**. The attacker was shot to death. He was identified as **Abdul Razaq Ali Artan**, 18, a student at the university. **ISIS's Amaq news agency issued a statement claiming the attack had been carried out by "a soldier of the Islamic State" who had answered the calls to attack members of the international coalition.** The local police reported that the attack had apparently been planned some time previously (Reuters, November 30, 2016). So far information linking Abdul Razaq Artan to ISIS has not been made available.

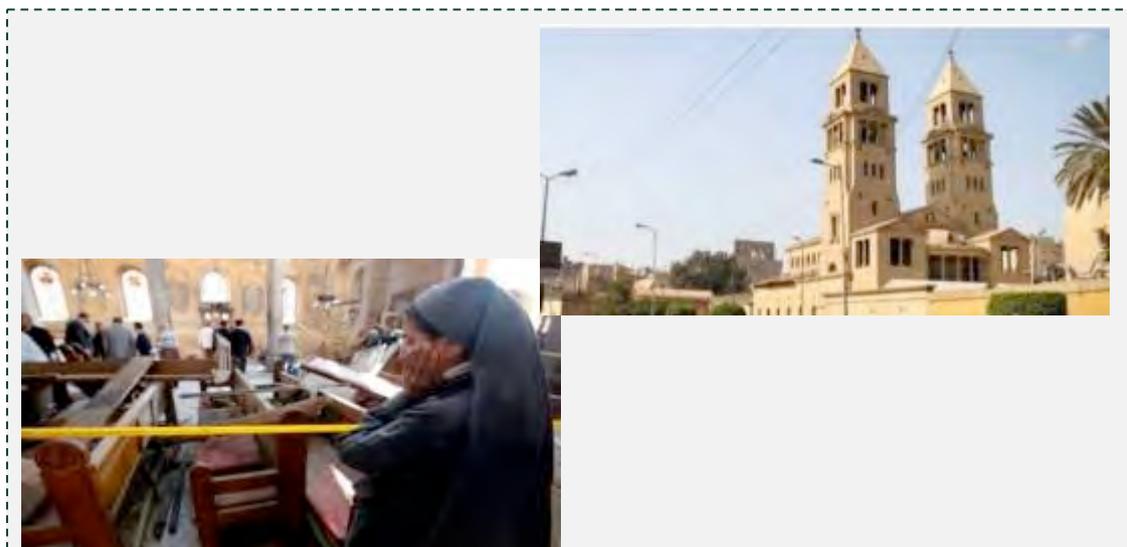
d. **Car bomb attack in eastern Turkey** – Before dawn on November 4, 2016, a minibus exploded in the Turkish city of Diyarbakir, in the eastern part of the country. It was estimated that the vehicle contained several tons of explosives. It was **detonated at the entrance to the local police station**. At least thirteen people were killed (two of them police officers) and more than 100 civilians were injured (Hurriyetdailynews.com, November 4, 2016). **ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack** (Haq, November 5, 2016). **The Turks claimed the Kurdish PKK were responsible.** On November 7, 2016, the Turkish security forces reported they had detained ten individuals suspected of involvement in the attack (Jomhurriyetdailynews.com, November 7, 2016)



Pictures from the scene of the attack in Diyarbakir, eastern Turkey (Rumiyah #3, November 11, 2016).

e. Suicide bombing attack in Egypt

1) On December 12, 2016, a **bomb exploded in the Coptic cathedral in the al-Abbasiyah neighborhood of Cairo. At least 25 people were killed and 38 wounded.** Egyptian security sources told the al-Hayat newspaper **that ISIS's Sinai Province was behind the suicide bombing attack.** The suicide bomber was apparently **Mahmoud Shafiq Muhammad Mustafa**, aka **Abu Dajan al-Kanani**, 22, who joined the Sinai Province two years ago and participated in a number of attacks. Four suspects were later detained (Al-Hayat, December 12, 2016).



Left: The destruction caused by the attack (al-Tahrir, December 12, 2016). Right: An archive picture of the cathedral (al-Watan, December 12, 2016).

2) On December 13, 2016, **ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack**, claiming a suicide bomber blew himself up with an explosive belt in the

midst of a crowd of "Crusaders" [i.e., Christians]. According to the claim, the objective of the attack was to send the message that "...the Caliphate State would continue shedding the blood and roasting the bodies [of "Crusaders" and anyone who left Islam and became an infidel] until the only religion was that of Allah" (Haq, date, 2016).



ISIS's claim of responsibility for the attack at the Coptic cathedral in Cairo (Haq, December 13, 2016).

Attacks that Were Prevented

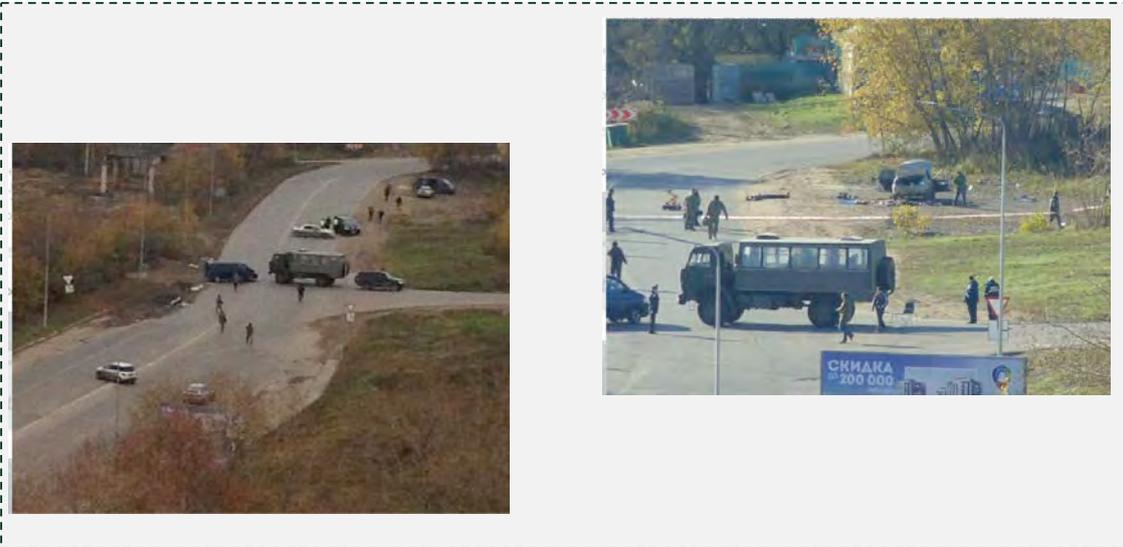
4. Various attacks that were prevented:

a. Russia:

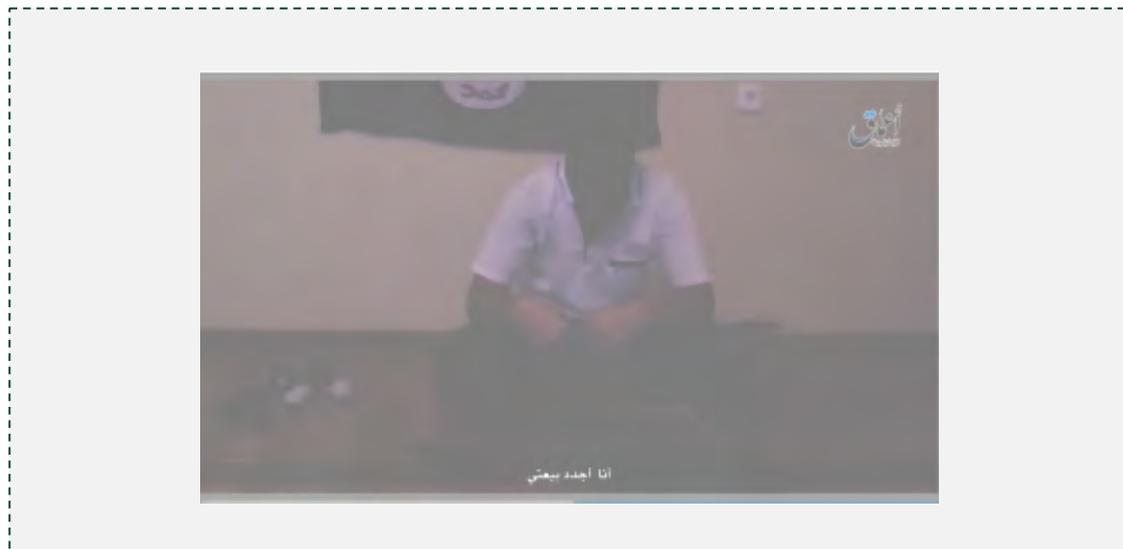
1) The Russian media reported that **two terrorist operatives were shot and killed by police in the city of Nizhny Novgorod** (about 420 kilometers, or 260 miles east of Moscow). The event began on the morning of October 23, 2016, when a police patrol car stopped a suspicious vehicle to investigate. Two passengers shot at the police and in the exchange of fire during a chase the two were killed. Two police incurred minor wounds. The car was found to be carrying explosives, which were detonated by a robot. Russian security forces detained a suspect and located an apartment in Nizhny Novgorod which had been rented by the two terrorists, who had arrived in the city to carry out an attack (Russian websites ntv, October 23 and 26, 2016, and vremayan, October 23, 2016).

2) **ISIS claimed the terrorists were "two soldiers of the Islamic State who carried out an armed attack on an army base in the city of Nizhny Novgorod in western Russia"** (Amaq, October 26, 2016). Amaq issued a

video showing one of the operatives swearing allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and swearing to carry out jihad against "infidels" as a soldier of the Islamic State. According to reports, the operative in the video was **Anjad Ba'yati** (Amaq, October 27, 2016).



The site where the two terrorists were killed (vremyan.ru, October 23, 2016)



Anjad Ba'yati, one of the ISIS operatives killed in Nizhny Novgorod, swears allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (Amaq, October 27, 2016).

b. **Saudi Arabia** – On October 30, 2016, the Saudi Arabian security forces exposed an ISIS terrorist squad of two Pakistanis, a Syrian and a Sudanese. The squad planned to detonate a car bomb in **the parking lot at the al-Johara soccer stadium, located in the King Abdallah sports city in Jeddah**. The attack was planned for October 11, 2016, during a soccer game between Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Another ISIS squad was exposed, of four operatives with Saudi Arabian citizenship **who planned to attack Saudi Arabian security**

personnel. The squad operated in al-Sharqiyah Province, about 155 kilometers (about 96 miles) northwest of the capital city of Riyadh. They maintained contact with an ISIS commander in Syria, who sent them instructions for the attack (al-Arabiya, October 30, 2016).



Four ISIS operatives detained in Saudi Arabia on suspicion of planning a mass-casualty attack at a soccer game in Jeddah (al-Arabiya, October 30, 2016).

c. **Albania** – At the beginning of November 2016 an **ISIS attack planned for a soccer game between Albania and Israel in the city of Shkodër was prevented.** It was supposed to be carried out by four operatives affiliated with ISIS, who planned to detonate explosives and fire guns during the game (Albaniannews, November 12 and 14, 2016). The four were detained on the basis of intelligence information near the Kosovo border on November 5, 2016. In addition **seven operatives were detained in three cities in Kosovo on suspicion of planning coordinated terrorist attacks in Albania and Macedonia** (Haaretz, November 8, 2016).

d. **Russia** – Russia's federal security forces detained a network of operatives from ten different countries in Central Asia who had ties to ISIS. The operatives were suspected of **planning terrorist attacks in public places in Moscow and St. Petersburg.** The federal security forces confiscated arms, ammunition, four IEDs and communications equipment (Sputnik, November 12, 2016).

e. **France** – A spokesman for the French police reported that the police carried out raids in Strasburg and Marseilles and detained seven men suspected of **planning attacks in crowded locations in Paris.** According to the French prosecutor, four were French and one was Moroccan. Documents found in their possession indicated a clear link to ISIS. In gathering intelligence for the attacks

the suspects used the Internet, **focusing on crowded public places such as Disneyland, the Champs Elysees, coffee shops, police headquarters and Metro stations**. The French police found two rifles, an automatic handgun, a submachine gun and propaganda material in their possession. It is suspected that at least some of the operatives had received instructions from an ISIS operative in Syria (Middle East Eye, November 25, 2016).

f. **Holland** – Having received early information, the Rotterdam police detained a 30 year-old man on suspicion of **planning an ISIS-inspired attack in Holland**. A Kalashnikov assault rifle was found in his apartment, along with two ammunition magazines, four crates of fireworks, a cell phone, a large amount of money and a large picture of an ISIS flag (Reuters, December 9, 2016).