



ISIS and ISIS Supporters' Campaign Threatens Christmas Terrorist Attacks

December 24, 2018

Overview

This past week there was an increase in ISIS and ISIS supporters' propaganda material (notices and videos) **threatening to attack Western countries and their leaders** (and also Russian President Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu). The threats were issued via Telegram and ISIS-affiliated websites. In ITIC assessment the **campaign was organized for the pre-Christmas and Christmas season**. In the background were Trump's announcement that he would withdraw the American troops from Syria raising the morale of ISIS and its supporters; and **ongoing intensive pressure is being exerted on ISIS in eastern Syria**. The ISIS video calling for terrorist attacks includes **pictures of coalition attacks in eastern Syria with the voice of ISIS leader al-Baghdadi in the background calling for vengeance**.

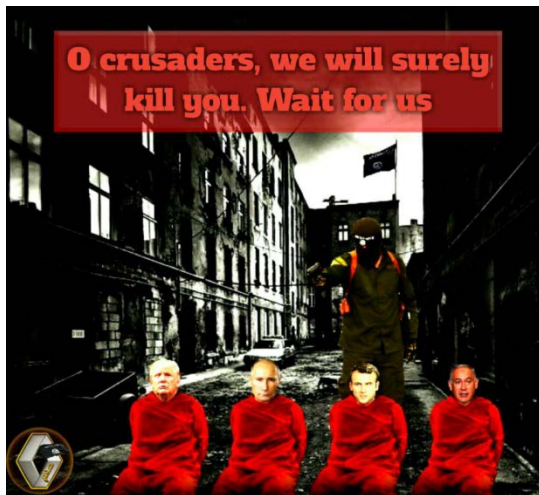
- ▶ **The notices and video threaten the West and encourage ISIS-inspired attacks.** They call for attacks on Trump, Putin, Macron, Netanyahu and the Pope. One the announcements threatens a drone attack against Manhattan. The announcements and subtitles of the video are in **English** (the video is in **Spanish**, with **English and Arabic** subtitles, and some parts are in **French**)
- ▶ The video was posted to ISIS's website. **It has pictures of Christmas festivities along with calls for attacks.** The attacker or attackers are **called to dress appropriately, then infiltrate themselves among the revelers and detonate their bombs**. The video explicitly calls for stabbing and vehicular attacks ("Kill them with a car or a knife").

The campaign is liable to increase the motivation of ISIS supporters around the globe, especially in the West, to carry out terrorist attacks. Their motivation may be translated into attacks carried out during the Christmas season, especially **vehicular, stabbing and shooting attacks**. It should be taken into account that **ISIS supporters will set their sites on crowded locations during the Christmas holidays**.

ISIS Notices Calling for Terrorist Attacks



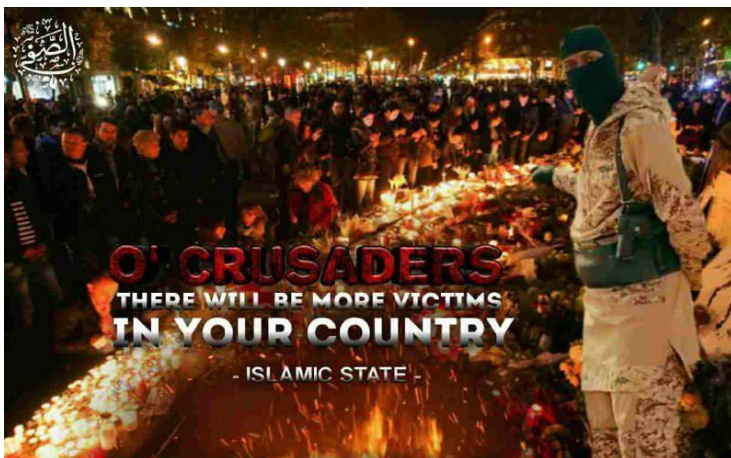
Left: ISIS threat against Donald Trump (Telegram, December 19, 2018). Right: Threat against Donald Trump (Telegram, December 22, 2018).



Right: Threatening Santa Claus (Telegram, December 23, 2018). Left: Threatening to execute the "Crusaders," Trump, Putin, Macron and Netanyahu (Telegram, December 20, 2018).



Right: A threat against the White House (Telegram, December 20, 2018). Left: A threat against the Pope from the ISIS-affiliated al-Abd al-Fakir Institute (Telegram, December 23, 2018).

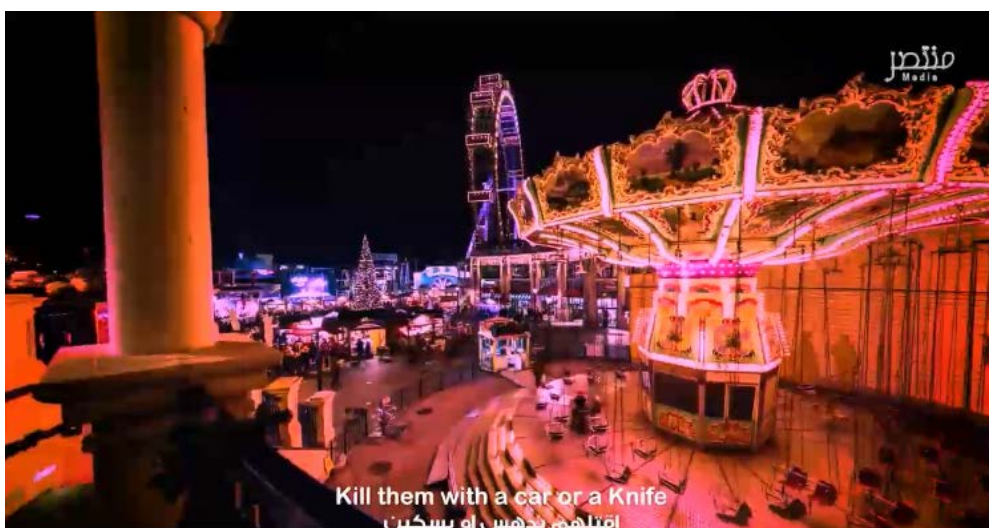


Right: A drone threat against Manhattan from the ISIS-affiliated al-Abd al-Fakir Institute (Telegram, December 21, 2018) Left: Mourners after a terrorist attack, a threat against Paris (Telegram, December 19, 2018).

Pictures from the Video



From the ISIS video produced by the Muntaser Information Institute. Some of it is in French (al-Ghurabaa', December 23, 2018).



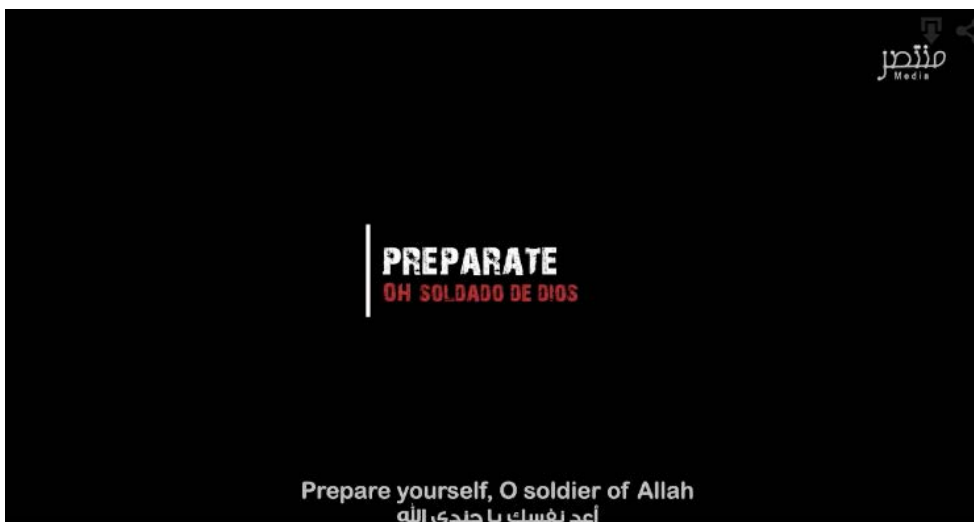
(al-Ghurabaa', December 23, 2018).



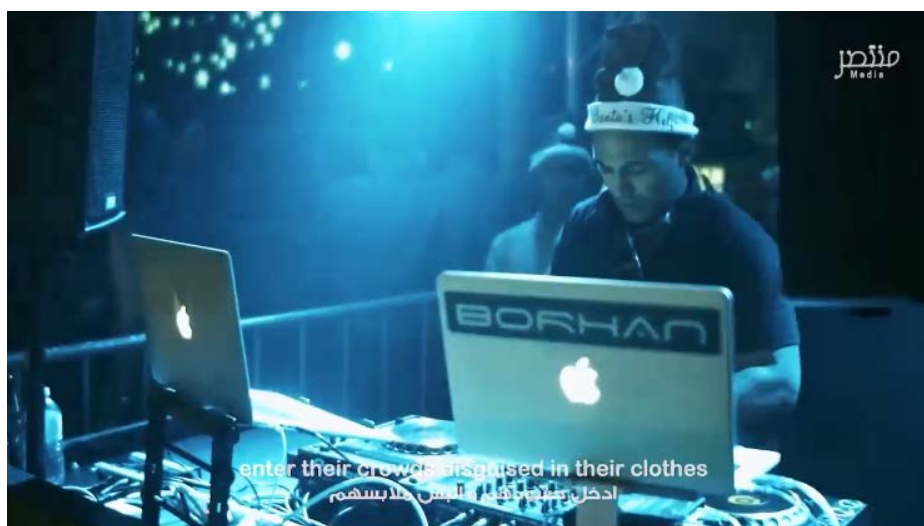
(al-Ghurabaa', December 23, 2018).



A Christmas party. The Arabic reads, "They are the [devil's] slaves" (al-Ghurabaa', December 23, 2018).



A call to kill the "infidels" (al-Ghurabaa', December 23, 2018).



A call for attacks during the holidays: "enter their crowds disguised in their clothes" (al-Ghurabaa', December 23, 2018).