

# US NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER COUNTERTERRORISM WEEKLY

14-20 SEPTEMBER 2017

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## PARTING SHOTS

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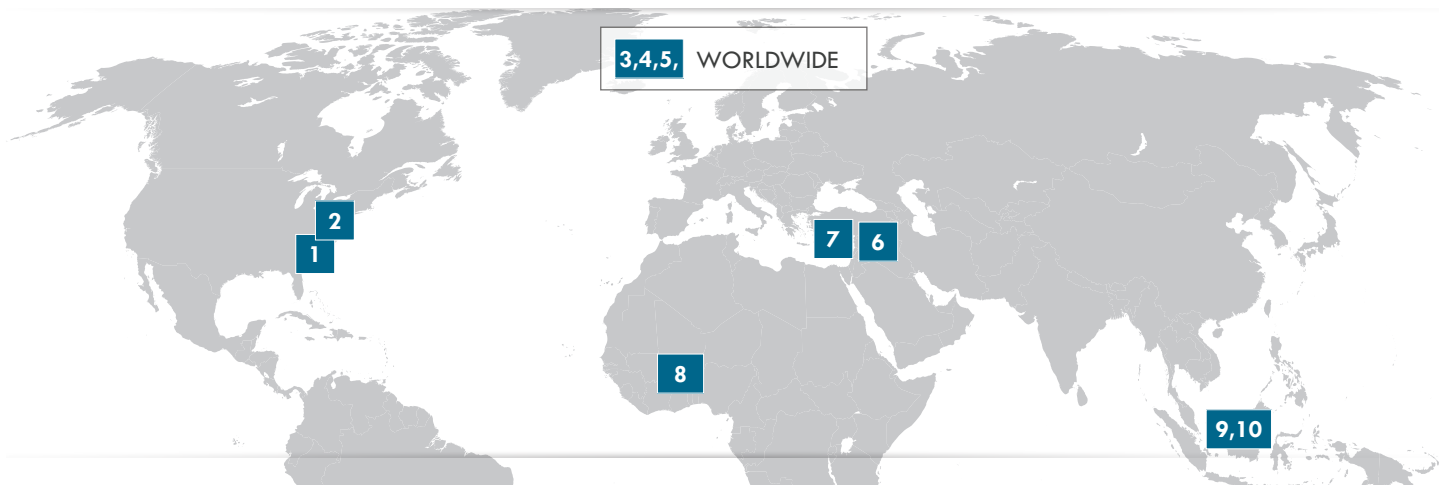
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# US NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

# COUNTERTERRORISM WEEKLY

## EXECUTIVES' VIEW



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- 2 NEW YORK:** (U) On 12 September, an USPER accused of aiding in the preparation of a VBIED to conduct an attack against US forces in Afghanistan pleaded not guilty. [pg. 6]
- 3 WORLDWIDE:** (U) On 14 September, an al-Qa'ida audio message featuring Hamza Bin Laden was released. [pg. 7]
- 4 WORLDWIDE:** (U) On 16 September, al-Qa'ida released a message from its leader amir Ayman al-Zawahiri calling on supporters to confront the US and Iranian "alliance" in Yemen and in France in Mali. [pg. 7]
- 5 WORLDWIDE:** (U) ISIS Supporters distribute *Knights of Lone Jihad 6* to include an IED manual inspired by the London metro bombing attack. [pg. 7]
- 6 IRAQ:** (U) On 14 September, ISIS released a statement claiming responsibility for three suicide attacks near Nassiriya that killed at least 50. [pg. 9]
- 7 LEBANON:** (U) ON 14 September, US Embassy Beirut bars staff from Casino Du Liban due to ongoing terrorist threats to popular locations. [pg. 9]
- 8 WEST AFRICA:** (U) On 13 September, West African leaders from Mali and Niger made an appeal for international funding to support a multinational force to combat terrorism in the region. [pg. 12]
- 9 PHILIPPINES:** (U) In August, ISIS released a video encouraging would-be fighters to travel to the Philippines instead of Syria and Iraq. [pg. 11]
- 10 MALAYSIA:** (U) On 14 September, authorities arrested a man allegedly ordered by a Syria-based ISIS member to conduct an attack on non-Muslims. [pg. 17]

## SPOTLIGHT SUMMARY

(U) **London Underground Train Bombing:** On 15 September, at 0720 GMT, an explosion occurred on a packed rush-hour commuter train at Parsons Green station in west London, UK, injuring 22 people. The explosion occurred as the doors of the last carriage of the train opened at Parsons Green station. Authorities detained five suspects in connection with the attacks. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack through the group's Amaq news agency.

# SPOTLIGHT

(U) This section provides a comprehensive look at a terrorist group(s) or leader(s), and/or CT tools and literature.

## (U) London Underground Train Bombing

(U) On 15 September, at 0720 GMT (0320 EST), an explosion occurred on a rush-hour commuter train at Parsons Green station in west London, UK, injuring 22 people. London's Mayor Sadiq Khan stated, "The Metropolitan Police have confirmed that the explosion on a train at Parsons Green station this morning is being treated as terrorism." As of 20 September, authorities had detained five suspects in connection with the attacks. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack through its Amaq news agency.

(U) According to images of the device posted on social media immediately after the attack, the device was an IED placed in a white bucket with a supermarket freezer bag on the floor. Christmas lights appeared to protrude from the top of the bucket. Ben Wallace, the UK's security minister, confirmed the Parsons Green bomb "used the type of explosive similar to that used in Manchester." However, the images appeared to show "deflagration"—in which a substance burns away rapidly—rather than detonation, which would result in more casualties, according to explosive expert Frank Gardner, the BBC's security correspondent. Most of the 22 people taken to hospital suffered "flash burns" in the explosion, according to Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley.



(U) ISIS Claim of responsibility (ISIS)

(U) Train services were shut down from Earls Court to Wimbledon, along with a 330ft (100-meter) area cordoned around the station. The blast at Parsons Green station was on an eastbound District line from Wimbledon, four miles southwest of Big Ben. Police also evacuated a house in Sudbury-on-Thames, Surrey, UK, as well as the surrounding buildings as a "precautionary measure."

(U) The Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police, London Fire Brigade and the London Ambulance Service responded to the scene. Firefighters also helped evacuate 253 people from a train not involved in the incident.

(U) Scotland Yard's counterterrorism command, SO15, was leading the investigation, supported by MI5. Investigators examined CCTV from the London underground network to determine where those behind the attack entered and exited the tube system.

(U) On 15 September, Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced London's national threat level as 'critical' following the terrorist attack at Parsons Green station. As of 17 September, the London threat level has been lowered from critical to severe.

(U) On 16 September, An 18 year-old male suspect was arrested in Dover, in the departure area of the port and a second male, 21, was arrested in Hounslow, West London. On 19 September, a 25-year-old man was arrested at an address in Newport and on 20 September, two additional suspects were arrested, a 48 year old man and a 30 year old man. No further details on the individuals' identities or potential connection to the attack were provided.

(U) As of 19 September, authorities continued searching two addresses in Surrey, two addresses in Newport, and a commercial property in Hounslow in connection with the ongoing investigation.

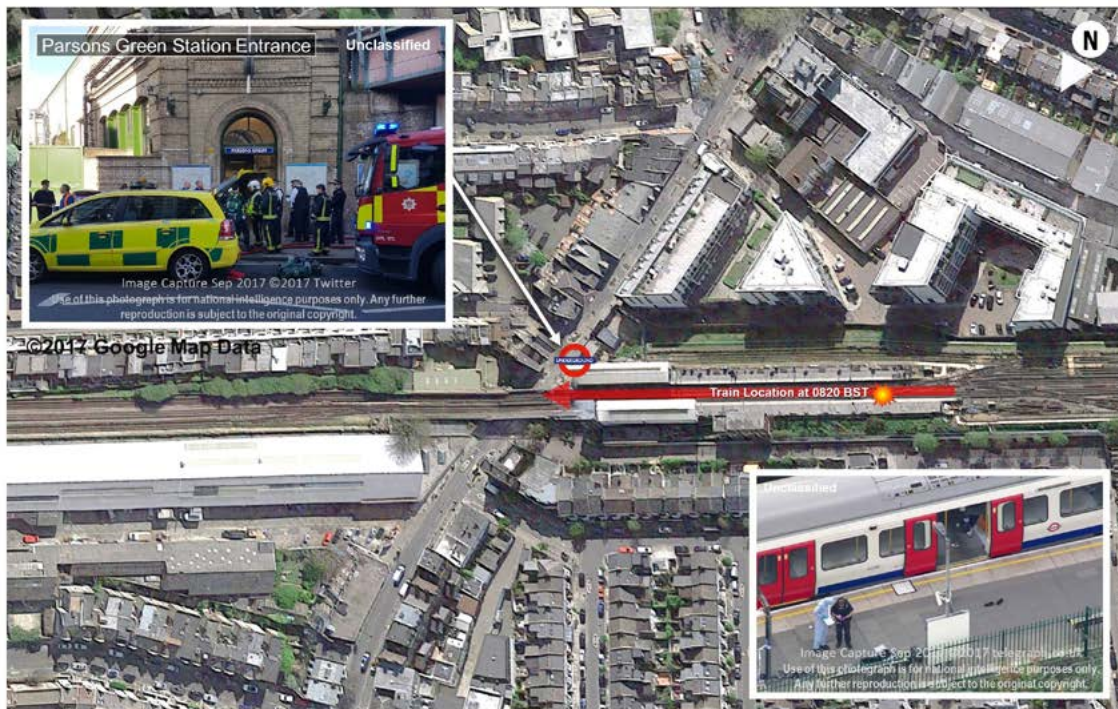
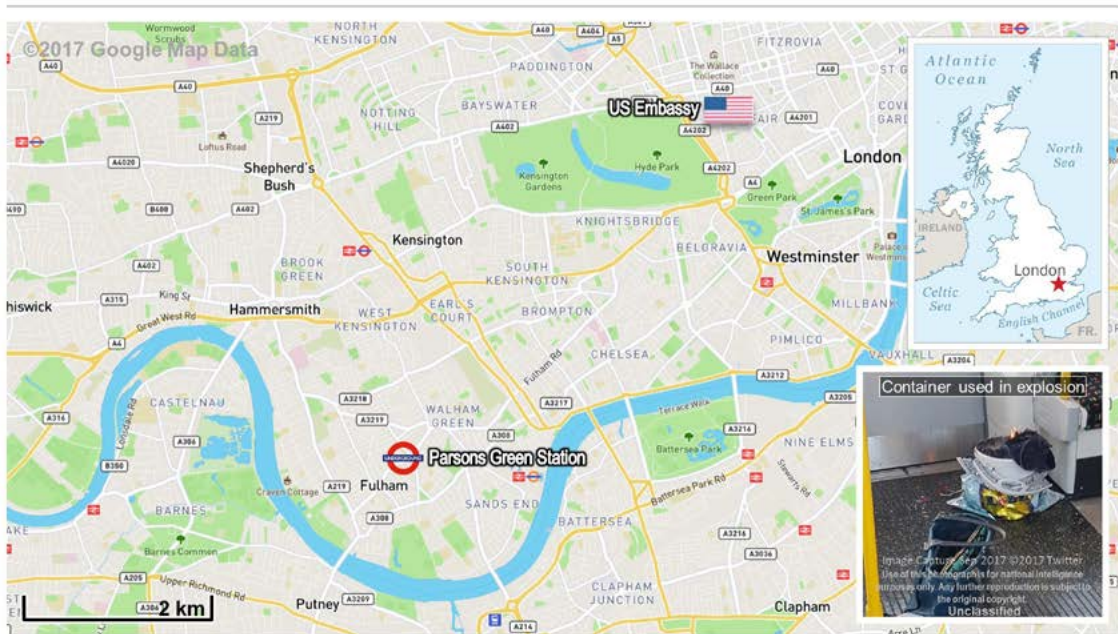
(U) Although there is currently no identified terror nexus between the attack in the UK to the US, both the New York Police Department and the Los Angeles Police Department increased security presence. The New York Police Department moved extra officers, bomb-detection dogs, and heavy weapons teams into the city's transit system as a precaution following the London subway bombing. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said he directed state law enforcement to increase transportation security at airports, bridges, tunnels and mass transit systems across New York. In addition, the Los Angeles Police Department increased its presence on MTA rail and bus lines and ensured major tourist venues see increased security measures. [\(MET POLICE, NHS, THE GUARDIAN, REUTERS, WP, NPR, AP, LAPD, LONDON FIRE BRIGADES\)](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

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**NCTC Comment:** (U//FOUO) The First Responder's Toolboxes "Recent Attacks Demonstrate Continued Violent Extremist Interest in Targeting Passenger Trains" (17 January 2017) highlights "Look out for bags. Passengers may carry bags of all varieties and sizes, potentially giving violent extremists an opportunity to discreetly transport weapons or explosives" while Complex Operating Environment—Mass Transit" (26 February 2016) offers indicators which may help identify and prevent an act of terrorism "Unattended packages, carry-on baggage, and suitcases in stations, cars, or on tracks. Packages or baggage with chemical smells, visible wires, or stains." While security is often present, mass transit hubs and vehicles remain potential terrorist targets due to the quantity of people, luggage and other large items, and creates a challenging environment for first responders to prevent, secure, and respond in the event of a terrorist attack. Coordination, training, and exercises between first responders, law enforcement, and private sector can address the emergency response procedures in the case of an event. In addition, first responders are reminded some precursor chemicals, rudimentary devices, components—including devices which may appear to have failed to detonate—may have inherent dangers and should be treated accordingly until rendered safe by subject matter experts.

# SPOTLIGHT



(U) Map of Parsons Green Station (DIGITAL GLOBE)

# ON POINT

(U) This section consists of in-depth counterterrorism press articles including context and background information.

## 1 UNITED STATES: (U) State Department Designates Twins as Terrorists

(U) On 19 September, the US State Department designated Tony-Lee Thulsie and Brandon-Lee Thulsie as Specially Designated Global Terrorists.

- (U) These designations are designed to deny the two men any resources they need to plan and conduct terrorist attacks. Tony-Lee Thulsie and Brandon-Lee Thulsie's property and interests in property subject to US jurisdiction are blocked, and US persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with them.
- (U) In July 2016, the two men were arrested during raids in South Africa for their links to ISIS. At the time of their arrest, the twin brothers had been plotting attacks targeting Jewish individuals and institutions and foreign embassies, including the US Embassy in South Africa. Both men attempted to travel to Syria to fight for ISIS and recruited others to join the group.
- (U) Tony-Lee Thulsie also communicated with individuals linked to ISIS to discuss how to build and obtain explosive devices for the purpose of conducting attacks. [\(US DEPT OF STATE\)](#)

## 2 WASHINGTON, D.C.: (U) Preparations for Benghazi Trial Begin

(U) On 12 September, the federal court in Washington, D.C. began jury selections for the terrorism trial for Libya-born Ahmed Abu Khattala\*, 46, the leader of the Benghazi, Libya, attacks in 2012. Abu Khattala pleaded not guilty to all charges of conspiring in the attacks on 11 and 12 September 2012, which resulted in the death of the US Ambassador and three other Americans.

- (U) Abu Khattala is the first terrorism suspect to face trial in a civilian US courtroom after being captured in an overseas raid and interrogated aboard a US warship. Opening statements are set to start on 25 September, with the trial projected to last six weeks. [\(WASHINGTON POST\)](#)

## 3 NEW YORK: (U) Al-Qa'ida Suspect Stands Trial

(U) On 12 September, <sup>USPER</sup>Muhanad Mahmoud Farekh\*, 31, pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiring to murder Americans and use a weapon of mass destruction, and supporting al-Qa'ida. Farekh was also accused of aiding in the preparation of a VBIED to conduct an attack against an unnamed US military based in Afghanistan in January 2009; however, the device failed to detonate.

- (U) In 2007, Farekh traveled with two fellow students from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada, to Pakistan, intending to fight US forces.
- (U) Farekh frequently watched videos promoting violent extremism, to include those of now-deceased AQAP official and <sup>USPER</sup>Anwar al-Awlaki--killed in a US drone attack in 2011. If convicted, Farekh could face life in prison. [\(REUTERS\)](#)

\* (U) The charges listed are currently allegations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## ON POINT

### 4 **WORLDWIDE:** (U) Hamza Bin Laden Releases Audio Message

(U) On 14 September, al-Qa'ida's As-Sahab media released an audio message featuring Hamza Bin Laden, titled "The Cause of al-Sham is the Cause of Islam" which called for violent jihad in Syria through physical or financial means, and to help stop what he described as "international Crusader-Rafidhi aggression."

- (U) In the message, Hamza did not reference any particular group while calling for Syrian violent jihad but urged fighters to heed advice of scholars. In prior speeches—from August 2016 and in May—Hamza called for lone-wolf attacks in the West and overthrowing the Saudi Regime.
- (U) The message was released in Arabic with English subtitles and was approximately 12 minutes long. **(AL-QA'IDA)**



(U) Graphic for Hamza Bin Laden audio message **(AS-SAHAB)**

### 5 **WORLDWIDE:** (U) Al-Qa'ida Releases Video Featuring Message From Amir Ayman Al-Zawahiri

(U) On 16 September, al-Qa'ida released a six-minute, 23-second video from Zawahiri, titled "Messages from the frontlines." Zawahiri addressed violent jihad in the Islamic Maghreb, East Africa, the Indian Subcontinent, and Arabian Peninsula, and called on supporters in Mali to "teach the French a lesson." Zawahiri closed by calling on supporters to confront the US and Iranian "alliance" in Yemen.

**(AL-QA'IDA)**



(U) Video still of Zawahiri message **(AL-QA'IDA)**

### 6 **WORLDWIDE:** (U) ISIS Supporters Distribute IED Instruction Manual

(U) On 19 September, pro-ISIS Telegram channel Lone Mujahid released the sixth iteration of the *Knights of Lone Jihad* praising the recent ISIS-claimed attacks on the Parsons Green station London, UK, and promoted inciting further lone wolf attacks on westerners.

- (U) The latest edition specifically urged assailants to conduct attacks against public transport systems using IEDs detonated by "telephone or remote control". It also provided guidance specifically calling followers to target US and French citizens "or any of their allies" using knives, rocks, poison, vehicle attacks or throwing victims "from a high place."
- (U) The series praised "brothers who responded to the call to attack the infidels" and described the attacks against Parsons Green station as a "hard blow to the kuffar." It also appeared to accuse Western nations of "hiding the truth of the caliphate" by attacking websites denying ISIS's account of the attack, in which they claimed one attacker planted several explosive devices.
- (U) Previous editions of this series encouraged lone-actor attacks, acid attacks and suicide bombings on airports in Florida, US, and called on violent jihadists in Europe to travel to the southern Philippines to fight, or conduct attacks in their home countries. **(LONE MUJAHID)**



(U) *Knights of Lone Jihad 6* **(LONE MUJAHID)**

**NCTC:** (U//FOUO) It is unlikely a novice bombmaker could rely solely on these instructions to successfully manufacture an IED. The instructions provide ideas and suggestions for IED construction, such as using TATP and making remote control switches, but details on how to make these items and assemble a working device are missing or vague. **(NCTC)**

## ON POINT

**Department of Homeland Security:** (U//FOUO) Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) assesses ISIS supporters who authored the unofficial publication, *Knights of Lone Jihad* 6 likely aspire to radicalize and incite violence among Western- and US-based HVEs by highlighting the recent attacks conducted on the London metro and providing vague bomb making instructions. I&A notes the document underscores the violent extremist narrative which conveys the West's perceived aggression towards Muslims in the Middle East. I&A further assesses the bomb making instructions provided are likely aspirational and would not provide an inexperienced bomb maker with insight into procuring commercially available precursor materials, manufacturing homemade explosives, or constructing a finished IED. (DHS)

**Transportation Security Agency:** (U//FOUO) TSA assesses ISIS very likely intends to disseminate viable explosive manufacturing instructions through its official media releases. The instructions for device construction includes basic send and receive radio signal initiation, a relatively easy-to-make main charge, and a metal container for increased fragmentation. TSA judges that this device is viable if properly constructed and initiated within an appropriate range of the device. TSA remains concerned about ISIS's focus on conducting, and inspiring attacks against transportation targets—which its media apparatus could enhance by incorporating some of the group's most advanced explosives designs, and showcasing some of its most lethal, difficult-to-detect IEDs.

(U//FOUO) TSA disseminated a Surface Awareness Message (SAM) for the transportation private industry and a Transportation Intelligence Note (TIN) for TSA personnel in the field providing an attack summary, image of the device, and information for transportation operators to maintain vigilance of the tactics, techniques, and procedures ISIS propaganda proliferates in order to stay equipped to mitigate the impact of inspired attacks. Additionally, TSA held two calls with government partners and transportation private industry members (to include the FBI, <sup>USPER</sup>Amtrak, WMATA, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Association of American Railroads, and American Public Transportation Association), providing details and updates about the attack, emphasizing increased vigilance, and soliciting information about any security measures being put in place by transportation private industry members themselves. (TSA)

### 7 **FRANCE:** (U) Man Attacks Soldier at Paris Subway Station; Detained by Authorities

(U) On 15 September, a 40-year old man—reportedly Moroccan-born—used a knife to attack a soldier at the Chatelet subway station in Paris. The man allegedly referenced ISIS during the attack.

- (U) The suspect—previously unknown to authorities—was arrested but did not sustain any injuries. Police also raided an address linked to the suspect.
- (U) The soldier was on duty supporting Operation Sentinel, a force deployed in response to recent terrorist attacks in France.

(AP, REUTERS, THE INDEPENDANT)

**NCTC Comment:** (U//FOUO) An attacker unknown to law enforcement officials demonstrates the difficulty in disrupting opportunistic attacks, as they are typically conducted with little or no planning. Tips to mitigate or prevent an attack by a violent extremist include: recognizing suspicious activities, items, or behaviors during the course of performing daily duties, reducing off-duty profile, and partnering while on patrol, especially on foot patrols or standing in a static post. First responders can play a vital role in assisting with preventing attacks targeting military personnel or facilities through coordinated efforts with on-site military security and the recognition and reporting of activities consistent with pre-attack planning in areas near these facilities.

### 8 **DENMARK:** (U) Man Stands Trial on Terrorism Charges

(U) On 12 September, a man, 26, stood trial at Aarhus City Court in Denmark on allegations from September 2013 of joining ISIS and undergoing terrorist training in Syria. The arrest of the suspect was part of a larger case involving five other males suspected of joining ISIS.

- (U) The man—who has been in custody for over a year—denies charges. The other five accused men will appear in court later in the year with prosecutors seeking prison sentences over four years. (DK)



## ON POINT

### 9 IRAQ: (U) ISIS Claims Suicide Attacks on Restaurants and Police Checkpoint

(U) On 14 September, ISIS claimed responsibility in a statement on its Amaq news agency for three suicide attacks, which killed at least 50 and wounded more than 80. ISIS reportedly claimed 200 were killed/wounded in the attacks.

- (U) Terrorists wearing security force uniforms and driving stolen army vehicles targeted a police checkpoint and two restaurants on a highway near Nassiriya, Iraq, using car bombs and suicide vests.
- (U) Security forces were placed on alert in most of the southern provinces, including the oil city of Basra, in case of similar attacks. ([REUTERS](#))

**NCTC:** (U) Terrorists continue to gain access to secure areas by assuming the likeness of authorized personnel through the use of falsified credentials, uniforms, or vehicles. The loss or theft of uniforms, credentials, or vehicles may be an indicator of attack planning. Effective reporting and dissemination of information about such loss/thefts may help mitigate the effectiveness of this tactic and further emphasize first responder safety and awareness.

(NCTC)



(U) ISIS attack claim stating more than 200 killed/wounded. (ISIS)

### 10 LEBANON: (U) US Embassy Beirut Issues Warning to US Citizens

(U) On 14 September, US Embassy Beirut barred any movement of US Government staff to Casino Du Liban in Jounieh, Lebanon, due to ongoing threats to locations such as the casino.

- (U) The Embassy will continue to evaluate the movements of its personnel, and encourages all US citizens to be aware of their immediate surroundings and take appropriate measures to ensure their safety and security. ([US EMBASSY BEIRUT](#))
- (U) Separately, on 15 September, the Lebanese Army detained 19 individuals allegedly part of an ISIS cell planning to conduct an attack in Lebanon. The ISIS cell was reportedly led by Egyptian Fadi Ibrahim Ahmed, who was based in the Ain el-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon. ([REUTERS](#))

### 11 CAMEROON: (U) Suicide Attacker Kills Five In Mosque

(U) On 13 September, a female between the age of 12 and 13 detonated a bomb strapped to her body in the Sanda-Wadjiri mosque located in Kolofata, northern Cameroon—killing six, to include the attacker. There has been no claim of responsibility, although authorities suspect Boko Haram to be behind the attack because the group frequently uses suicide bombers—to include children—in operations targeting civilian and military personnel. ([REUTERS](#))

**NCTC:** (U) First responder safety starts with a baseline understanding of the most current tactics, techniques, procedures, and trends used by terrorist groups. Attacks using suicide bombers may be effective, as concealment tactics may permit delivery of explosives near a target without arousing suspicion, challenging first responders' ability to detect and deter an attack. Houses of worship likely remain targets of interest to terrorists because most have minimal security and are open and accessible to the public. The physical layout and operational characteristics of some religious facilities may create a complex environment for emergency personnel responding to calls for service. (NCTC)

## ON POINT

### 12 **BURMA (MYANMAR):** (U) Al-Qa'ida Calls for Attacks, Support for Rohingya

(U) In mid-September, al-Qa'ida released a statement calling for support for Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims fleeing to Bangladesh, warning Myanmar would face "punishment" for its "crimes."

- (U) Al-Qa'ida urged followers "in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines to set out for Burma to help their Muslim brothers, and to make the necessary preparations—training and the like—to resist this oppression."
- (U) The group stated, "The savage treatment meted out to our Muslim brothers ... shall not pass without punishment." ([REUTERS](#), [AL-QA'IDA](#))

### 13 **INDIA:** (U) Alleged Al-Qa'ida Member Arrested

(U) On 18 September, a Bangladeshi-British man, Subhan Haq, a.k.a. Shami Ur Rahman, who was an alleged al-Qa'ida operative and reportedly came to India to train Rohingya Muslims, was arrested by Delhi Police's Special Cell.

- (U) Haq was supposedly a proficient hacker who received arms training, and who radicalised to violence several Rohingyas to violence in Bangladesh. Police recovered a pistol, four cartridges, a laptop, and foreign banknotes from Haq, who they said carried a Kishanganj (Bihar) voter ID. ([INDIA TODAY](#))

1

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful

The General Leadership of al-Qa'eda

### Burma Calling

All praise be to the One Who says: 'But if they seek your help in Religion, it is your duty to help them, except against a people with whom you have a treaty of mutual alliance, and Allah sees all that you do; [72]

It is mentioned in the Hadeeth, 'Whoever helps a Muslim in a situation in which he is humiliated and his honor is violated, Allah will help him in a situation in which he would love to be helped.' (Narrated by Abu Dawood)

The crimes being committed in the Arakan province today with vindictive international blessing- murder, burning, ripping apart of bodies, destruction of homes with their occupants inside- are a continuation of a conspiracy hatched by the forces of International Disbelief against Islam and Muslims: a conspiracy marked by the usurpation of the rights of Muslims, occupation of their lands, defilement of their holy places, all under the guise of fighting terrorism!

The usage and espousal of the term 'the fight against terrorism' has become the latest trend which every ruler must keep up with as a pledge of allegiance and devotion to the powerful in the system- a sacrament of penance to secure remission of all his crimes and failings and to be rewarded perhaps with a noble prize for peace- a badge worn by every professional criminal and murderer.

The savage treatment meted out to our Muslim brothers in Arakan by the government of Myanmar under the guise of 'fighting rebels'- as the Saudi media loves to depict the situation- shall not pass without punishment, and the government of Myanmar shall be made to taste what our Muslim brothers have tasted in Arakan, with the permission of Allah.

Helping the Muslims of Arakan is a Shari'i obligation and a Religious necessity. Allah the Glorious says, 'And what is wrong with you that you fight not in the Cause of Allah, and for those weak, ill-treated and oppressed among men, women, and children, whose cry is: 'Our Lord! rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from You one who will protect, and raise for us from You one who will help.' (An-Nisa: 75)

It is mentioned in the Hadeeth that the Prophet (pbuh) said: 'A Muslim is a brother of a Muslim; he does not oppress him, nor betrays him. Whoever helps his brother in need, Allah will be sufficient to fulfill his needs, and whoever alleviates the suffering of a Muslim, Allah will alleviate his suffering on the Day of Judgment, and whoever covers up the weakness of a Muslim, Allah will cover up his sins on the Day of Judgment.' (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim)

(U) Al-Qa'ida calling for followers to aid the "brothers" in Burma ([AL-QA'IDA](#))

# TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

(U) This section informs readers on methods terrorists are utilizing overseas which could be employed domestically.

## (U) ISIS Shifts Recruiting Tactics

(U) In August, ISIS released a seven-minute, English-language video encouraging would-be fighters to travel to the Philippines instead of Syria and Iraq. The video was the latest sign the group has shifted its recruiting tactics as it loses ground to Coalition Forces in the Middle East. Asia has become a new focus for ISIS, according to private sector analysts, such as Flashpoint Intelligence.

- (U) ISIS now views the southern Philippine islands as the best destination for terrorists and is using videos and social media in English and languages spoken in the southern Philippines to boast of its exploits and recruit fighters, according to private sector analysts.
- At a 1 August press conference in Washington, D.C., Secretary of State Rex Tillerson stated US intelligence is aware ISIS fighters from other countries are operating in Philippines. Tillerson added, “We already see elements of ISIS in the Philippines, as you’re aware, gaining a foothold. Some of these fighters have gone to the Philippines from Syria and Iraq. We are in conversations with the Philippine government, with Indonesia, with Malaysia, with Singapore, with Australia, as partners to recognize this threat, try to get ahead of this threat.”
- (U) Nick Rasmussen, director of the US National Counterterrorism Center, stated US intelligence has not yet seen a large flow. “At one point, we were worried about this out-rush, outflows, massive outflows of foreign fighters once the battlefield situation changed in Iraq and Syria and that Western countries, countries in the region, would be flooded with returnees...I think now speaking kind of broadly, that’s less likely than we first assessed.” [\(NBC\)](#)

**NCTC:** (U//FOUO) Terrorist organizations will likely continue to modify and adapt their social media messaging to accomplish their goals of recruitment and radicalization. Combined with media coverage, open source reporting and online research have the potential to offer homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) information to further radicalization or travel to foreign conflict zones. First responders may be in a position to recognize and disrupt efforts to provide material support to foreign terrorist organizations and travel to foreign conflict zones by recognizing observable behaviors associated with these activities. The NCTC “Homegrown Violent Extremists Mobilization Indicators for Public Safety Personnel” 2017 edition offers observable behaviors to help identify those most at risk. Recognition of indicators, coupled with a fundamental understanding of radicalization activities and tactics, may allow for the early detection of the radicalization process, and assist intervention/prevention efforts. It is available on the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) Community of Interest (COI) on Current, the JCAT Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI’s Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). **(NCTC)**

## TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

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### (U) West African Leaders Seek Funding for New Anti-Terrorist Force

(U) On 13 September, Mali and Niger made an appeal aimed at international funding for a regional force created to counter terrorist uprisings. Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Niger's Mahamadou Issoufou stated the force was assembled by the G5 Sahel bloc—Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad—and was crucial to fighting a threat which was beyond their borders. About 5,000 troops will make up the force, which is expected to be in operation by the fall.

- (U) A multinational force in the Lake Chad region—including soldiers from Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and Cameroon—had some success against Boko Haram terrorists, in which efforts were financed by Africa's biggest economy, Nigeria, according to Issoufou. Although no country in the G5 had sufficient resources, Keita believes if these countries work together they will be a greater impact in fighting terrorism. Issoufou noted how important it is for the international community to recognize this need and come together to provide the needed resources to accomplish the mission.
- (U) The force would be divided into three deployments across the Sahel region: an eastern one consisting of Chadian and Nigerien forces; a central one with forces from Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso; and a Western one with troops from Mali and Mauritania. [\(VOA\)](#)

### (U) Hong Kong Police Conduct Large-Scale Counterterrorism Drill

(U) On 18 September, more than 200 Hong Kong police officers, including the force's elite anti-terrorist squad, launched a second large-scale anti-terrorism drill in three weeks. The drill involved officers from the Counter Terrorism Response Unit, Police Tactical Unit, and Hong Kong Island's Emergency Unit.

- (U) The exercise scenario involved seven gunmen—played by other officers—raiding the city's iconic complex for municipal services, performance venues, and libraries, and shooting a number of people in a lobby before bursting into a concert hall.
- (U) The operation was the 13th anti-terrorist exercise conducted by police in 2017, with the previous scenario involving more than 200 officers at Hong Kong Stadium.
- (U) Hong Kong's terrorism threat level remained moderate as the authorities suggested there was no specific intelligence indicating an imminent attack.
- (U) Hong Kong police claim the aim of the exercise was to gauge the officers' ability to screen out assailants from the crowd as they tried to escape, and to also raise public awareness about terror attacks as police issued new guidance to help residents remember what to do in case of an attack: run, hide, and report. [\(SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST\)](#)

# PARTING SHOTS

(U) This section includes press articles with concise summaries for rapid consumption.

## 1 WORLDWIDE: (U) Al-Qa'ida Releases 16th Al-Nafir Bulletin

(U) As of 13 September, al-Qa'ida's as-Sahab media center released the 16th issue of its *al-Nafir* bulletin. Al-Qa'ida sought to position the Saudi Arabia imprisonment of clerics/scholars as part of a war on Islam. On 13 September, Saudi authorities announced the arrest of the clerics and intellectuals for espionage activities and having contacts with external entities. (AS-SAHAB, [BBC](#))



(U) Al-Qa'ida's *Al-Nafir* 16 (AL-QA'IDA)

## 3 WORLDWIDE: (U) AQAP Releases New Film Featuring Leader, Ibrahim Qosi

(U) On 18 September, AQAP released a new 21-minute film titled "Repulsing Aggression 8" featuring leader Ibrahim Qosi, a.k.a. Sheikh Khubayb al-Sudan, which focused on UAE's activities in Yemen and tried to harness tribal discontent for the anti-AQAP/anti-Huthi coalition. Qosi also vowed to keep fighting and threatened America. (AQAP)

## 4 WORLDWIDE: (U) Al Qa'ida Releases Message to POTUS

(U) On 19 September, an official spokesmam for al-Hijrah media released a message to the POTUS and Americans stating "hundreds of Mujahideen enrolled for Martyrdom operations against the Americans" and promising defeat of the US by the mujahideen. (AL-HIJRAH)



(U) Al-Qa'ida's message to POTUS (AL-HIJRAH)

## 2 WORLDWIDE: (U) ISIS Releases Al-Naba 97

(U) On 14 September, ISIS released the 97th issue of its weekly *al-Naba* newsletter. The issue discusses the group's use of UASs against its enemy as well as highlighting how ISIS continues to fight and adapt its techniques. (ISIS)



(U) *Al-Naba* 97 (ISIS)

## 5 CANADA: (U) Couple Faces Trial on Terrorism Charges

(U) On 13 September, opening statements were heard for the terrorism trial of CANPER El Mahdi Jamali, 20, and CANPER Sabrine Djermane, 21. In 2015, authorities searched their home and found a handwritten bomb-making recipe copied from an al-Qa'ida magazine. The pair allegedly attempted to use Christmas lights for a bomb. Both previously pleaded not guilty to charges of trying to leave Canada to join a terrorist group, possessing an explosive substance, facilitating a terrorist activity, and committing an offense for a terrorist group. (REUTERS, [CBC](#))

## PARTING SHOTS

### 6 GERMANY: (U) Man Arrested on Suspicion of Terrorism

(U) On 13 September, German authorities arrested Russian national, identified as Aslanbek S, 28, in Bremen for being a member of ISIS. The suspect's arrest comes after a month-long investigation by German authorities.

[\(WESER-KURIER\)](#)

### 7 GERMANY: (U) Syrian National Arrested on Terrorism Charges

(U) On 19 September, German authorities arrested Syrian national Majed A., 24, for allegedly being a member of various foreign terrorist groups and other charges. Majed reportedly participated in fighting in Syria against the government of Syrian leader Assad in 2013 as part of Jabhat al-Nusra and later as part of Ahrar al-Sham. He allegedly joined ISIS after the group took control of the Raqqa region in 2014, fighting in northwest Syria against Kurdish militia. In the summer of 2015, he was allegedly ordered by ISIS to travel to Europe. [\(PRESSEPORTAL\)](#)

### 8 GERMANY: (U) ISIS Suspect Arrested in Berlin

(U) On 18 September, German authorities arrested an Iraqi national, Raad Riyadh A. A., 31, on suspicion of membership in a terrorist organization and war crimes as part of ISIS. He allegedly joined ISIS in Mosul in June 2014 and participated in the killing of two Shia Muslims. Four months later, he was allegedly involved in the execution of a captured Iraqi military officer. He was also accused of extorting money from businesses to support ISIS. After arriving in Germany in July 2015, prosecutors believe he tried to recruit two other Iraqis and attempted to convince a third person to conduct a suicide attack.

[\(WP\)](#)

### 9 TURKEY: (U) Authorities Arrest 25 on Suspicion of Terrorism

(U) On 12 September, Turkish authorities arrested 25 suspected ISIS terrorists during operations in Istanbul. Amongst the detained were reportedly to be 22 foreign nationals and three senior level members. [\(REUTERS\)](#)

### 10 SPAIN: (U) Pakistani Man Arrested on Terrorism Charges

(U) Spanish police arrested a Pakistani man suspected of promoting terrorism and spreading violent extremist propaganda on social media networks. A ministry statement claimed the 25-year-old resident of the northern Catalan city of Lleida was part of a cell partially dismantled with the arrest of three Pakistani brothers in Lleida in 2016. Spanish authorities believe the man detained Tuesday had become more engrossed in violent radical activities in recent weeks.

[\(AP\)](#)

### 11 THE NETHERLANDS: (U) Four Terror Suspects Stripped of Nationality

(U) On 13 September, Anis Z., Driss D., Hatim R., and Nouredin B were stripped of their Dutch nationality after being convicted of terrorism. The men were sentenced to jail terms in absentia and were thought to still be in Syria. This was the first time the law allowing Dutch nationality to be withdrawn has been used for people convicted or suspected of involvement in terrorism. [\(DUTCH NEWS\)](#)

### 12 ROMANIA: (U) Convict Detained for Terrorism

(U) On 12 September, Romanian national Cristian Birzu, 40, was detained by authorities for planning to conduct attacks against the Interior Ministry's special troops. He was also held for the initiation and formation of an organized criminal group, falsifying official documents, and trafficking migrants. Romanian authorities noted he converted to Islam in February 2015 after he was convicted of attempted murder. [\(ADEVARUL\)](#)

## PARTING SHOTS

### **13 IRAN:** (U) The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Arrests ISIS Member; Deters Possible Attacks

(U) Around 13 September, the IRGC arrested an ISIS member and foiled an attack plot by the individual involving the use of 300 suicide attackers in possibly Tehran. The attack was allegedly intended to target a ten-day Shia religious holiday—Muhurram—beginning 21 September. Posing as ISIS members, the IRGC apprehended the suspect in Andisheh, a suburb of Tehran. The IRGC stated it obtained valuable information from the suspect's cellular phone. [\(REUTERS\)](#)

### **14 IRAQ:** (U) Authorities Sentence ISIS Member to Death

(U) On 12 September, a Baghdad court sentenced a Russian national to death for being a member of ISIS. The individual was detained during an operation in Mosul, launched in October 2016 and completed in July. The individual confessed to conducting terrorist activities against Iraqi security forces since 2015. [\(AP\)](#)

### **15 YEMEN:** (U) Three Suspected AQAP Members Killed in Airstrike

(U) On 14 September, an alleged UAS targeted a motorcycle ridden by three suspected AQAP members near the Arabian Sea coastline in Mudiyah district, Abyan province. Abyan is one of several provinces where AQAP and its local affiliate Ansar al-Sharia operate. AQAP named two of the deceased as Al' al-Buhayth and Haritha al-Waqqari. [\(REUTERS\)](#)

### **16 JORDAN:** (U) Men Found Guilty of Supporting Terrorists

(U) On 13 September, the State Security Court in Amman, Jordan, sentenced 17 defendants found guilty on 30 terrorist counts. The sentences ranged from three to 15 years imprisonment. Meanwhile, the court continued hearings in 13 security cases where defendants were indicted for supporting ISIS and Nusrah Front. [\(THE JORDAN TIMES\)](#)

### **17 NIGERIA:** (U) Suicide Attack Kills at Least 15

(U) On 18 September, at least 15 people were killed and 43 injured when three unidentified bombers—alleged members of Boko Haram—conducted a suicide attack on Mashimari village in Borno state. The bombers staged the attack after gunshots caused villagers to run. The village is not far from the Mandarari Internal Displacement Camp, which was attacked in August. [\(WP\)](#)

### **18 SOMALIA:** (U) Authorities Foil Attack at Bus Station

(U) On 18 September, police were called to a suspicious item at a bus station in Bosaso, Puntland. After cordoning off the area, police discovered the item was an IED, which detonated prematurely. There were no reported casualties and no claim of responsibility for the device. [\(GAROWEONLINE\)](#)

### **19 SOMALIA:** (U) US Airstrikes Kill Six Al-Shabaab Fighters

(U) On 13 September, US AFRICOM announced the US conducted three airstrikes, in coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia, killing six identified al-Shabaab terrorists. The strikes occurred in Kunyo Barrow. [\(REUTERS, AFRICOM, VOA\)](#)

### **20 AFGHANISTAN:** (U) Airstrikes Kill Lashkar-E-Islam and ISIS Members

(U) On 19 September, the Afghan Ministry of Defense confirmed at least two members of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Islam were killed in an airstrike in the Bandar area of Achin district, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. No further details regarding the identities of those killed in the airstrike were released. Separately, two ISIS Khorasan members were killed and another wounded during an airstrike in the Bati Kot district of Nangarhar province. [\(KHAMMA\)](#)

## PARTING SHOTS

### 21 AFGHANISTAN: (U) Attack Near Cricket Stadium Kills Three

(U) On 13 September, a suicide bomber detonated explosives at a check-point near the Kabul International Cricket Stadium in Kabul, during a Shpageeza Cricket League match. Three people, to include a security force member and a civilian, were killed, and six people were injured from the blast. The Shpageeza Cricket League season started on 11 September and is scheduled to run through 22 September at the Kabul International Cricket Stadium. [\(TOLO\)](#)



(U) Photo of now-deceased suicide bomb attacker [\(ISIS\)](#)

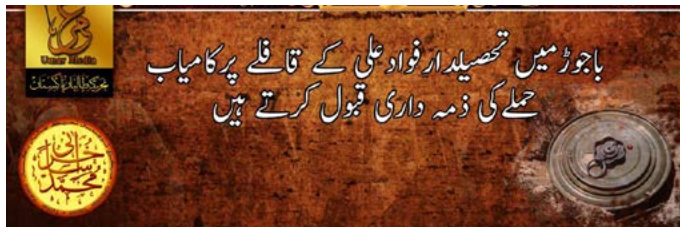
**NCTC:** (U//FOUO) This reporting can serve to remind first responders terrorists continue to target venues with large crowds, including sporting events. Effective security, response and recovery planning, and regular exercises between venue operators and state and local first responder agencies can mitigate the consequences of an attack on a US sporting venue. For additional information on stadium and arena event planning considerations see the NCTC First Responder Toolbox “Complex Operation Environment for First Responders – Stadiums and Arenas” (27 May 2014). This product is located on the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) Community of Interest (COI) on Current, the JCAT Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI’s Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). **(NCTC)**

### 22 AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN: (U) Two Explosions Target Torkham Border Crossing

(U) On 15 September, two explosions at the Torkham border crossing checkpoint injured at least six Frontier Constabulary personnel deployed to the gate, as well as a civilian. Security forces cordoned off the area, closed the border crossing, and launched an investigation. According to Frontier Constabulary officials, the nature of the explosions has not yet been ascertained. [\(DAWN\)](#)

### 23 PAKISTAN: (U) Roadside Bomb Kills Five

(U) On 17 September, at least five government officials, including security personnel, were killed in a remote-controlled bomb attack in Bajaur Agency, Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan’s Kunar province. A gold medal winner from Islamabad’s Quaid-e-Azam University was also allegedly killed. Tehrik-E Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. [\(GEO NEWS\)](#)



(U) Tehrik-E Taliban (TTP) attack claim [\(TTP\)](#)

### 24 THAILAND: (U) Roadside Bomb Kills Two, Injures 27

(U) On 14 September, three roadside bombs killed two soldiers and injured 27 others in a coordinated attack in Yala province. The terrorists targeted military personnel traveling in a vehicle, then attacked a bomb disposal unit when they arrived on scene. There has been no claim of responsibility. [\(REUTERS\)](#)



## PARTING SHOTS

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### **25 MALAYSIA:** (U) Authorities Foil ISIS Plot to Attack Places of Worship

(U) On 14 September, Malaysian police arrested an alleged ISIS member who received orders from Syria to conduct attacks. The man was reportedly instructed by a Syria-based ISIS member to buy a pistol, M-16, AK-47, and hand grenades from a neighboring country and use the items in an attack on non-Muslims and their unspecified places of worship. In addition, the man allegedly received instructions from Malaysian Abu Sayyaf Group member Mahmud Ahmad and an ISIS-Saudi Arabia bomb expert on how to assemble IEDs. Police seized chemicals used during the assembly of the IEDs in the suspect's home.

[\(CHANNEL NEWS ASIA\)](#)



## US NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER (NCTC)

NCTC serves as the primary organization in the US Government for integrating and analyzing all intelligence pertaining to terrorism possessed or acquired by the US Government (except purely domestic terrorism); serves as the central and shared knowledge bank on terrorism information; provides all-source intelligence support to government-wide counterterrorism activities; establishes the information technology (IT) systems and architectures within NCTC and between NCTC and other agencies that enable access to, as well as integration, dissemination, and use of, terrorism information.

NCTC serves as the principal advisor to the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) on intelligence operations and analysis relating to counterterrorism, advising the DNI on how well US intelligence activities, programs, and budget proposals for counterterrorism conform to priorities established by the President.

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