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Information contained in this document is presented in summary format without altering the meaning, context, or intent of the sources from which the information is derived except when the original verbiage is inconsistent with constitutionally protected rights.
On 22 March, a Canadian man was charged for committing an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries after he attacked an airport officer in Flint, Michigan, in June 2017. [pg. 6]

As of 20 March, an Ohio court found a North Carolina man guilty for conspiring to provide material support to ISIS by recruiting people for the purpose of conducting terrorist attacks in the US. [pg. 6]

On 23 March, Ahmed Hassan, 18, was found guilty of attempted murder for planting an explosive device which partially exploded on the Parsons Green Tube in September 2017. [pg. 7]

On 22 March, UK mosques launched the anti-radicalization program, “Safe and Secure” as an alternative to the UK Government’s “Prevent” strategy. [pg. 13]

As of 20 March, al-Qa’ida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri released a new speech, titled “America, the First Enemy of the Muslims,” calling for unity among all Muslims. [pg. 8]

On 23 March, a French national seized hostages at a supermarket in Trebes, killing two and wounding 15. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack. [pg. 8]

On 21 March, ISIS’ A’maq news agency released a statement claiming an ISIS fighter conducted an attack against police elements in Groznyy. [pg. 15]

On 23 March, Amman unveiled the Jordan Gendarmerie Training Academy, which was funded by the US to combat terrorism in the region. [pg. 13]

On 22 March, the Qatari Ministry of Interior listed 19 people and eight entities on its first list of terrorism issue “under a decree issued by Prince Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on counterterrorism in July 2017.” [pg. 11]

On 24 March, two Egyptian policemen were killed in Alexandria when a car bomb detonated as the city security chief’s convoy passed by. The city security chief survived the explosion which took place two days before Egypt began its presidential election. [pg. 11]

ISIS’ USE OF NASHEEDS (ISLAMIC CHANTS): Nasheeds, a traditional form of military anthem sung acapella by male voices, complement other ISIS propaganda with their focus on war and fighting. Nasheed videos and audio-only recordings were usually designed to encourage Muslim audiences to enter the path of jihad, and to reinforce the attitudes of ISIS supporters. (TERRORISM ANALYSIS, TANDF ONLINE, TERRORISM ANALYSIS, GUARDIAN)

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES: Terrorists and criminals alike remain interested in using the postal and commercial shipping industry to send packages containing explosives, suspicious substances, and other materials. As long as terrorists have low cost and easy access to postal/shipping/delivery services and are capable of hand delivering items, all organizations should consider comprehensive mail screening an essential part of a complete security program. (JCAT)
ISIS’ Use of Nasheeds (Islamic Chants)

According to Miron Lakomy from the Department of International Relations, University of Silesia, Poland, the most prominent pieces of propaganda posted online in 2014 and 2015 were videos, which depicted the sheer brutality of the ISIS executioners. ISIS videos proliferated rapidly to followers, probably reaching millions of Internet users. Equally sophisticated audiovisual content in the form of nasheed videos was also hugely successful. In terms of views on social media, one nasheed was viewed on a video-sharing website over 1.7 million times between August 2014 and February 2017, according to Lakomy and the video-sharing websites “views.” Nasheeds, a traditional form of military anthem sung acapella by male voices, complement other ISIS propaganda with their focus on war and fighting. Nasheed videos and audio-only recordings were usually designed to encourage Muslim audiences to enter the path of jihad, and to reinforce the attitudes of ISIS supporters. Nasheed chants frequently referred to such themes as war and fighting, while radio broadcasts covered a much wider spectrum of issues, ranging from religious programs and nasheeds to news bulletins.

ISIS’ use of social media to boost support has received significant press coverage, but its use of nasheeds receives less attention. That might be because chants are predominately in Arabic, so non-arab speakers would not understand them. However, there have been several notable examples of English-, French-, and German-language nasheeds in flagship ISIS videos.

Nasheeds date back to Islamic antiquity, and gained some prominence in the 1970s when Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt and Syria started writing them to inspire their supporters and convey their message. “Nasheeds as a genre of religious songs are old,” Behnam Said, employee of the Hamburg branch of German intelligence, says, “but supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood and other groups started making ones that were political and rebellious in the 70s and were circulated on cassette. Although some stringent fundamentalists, mainly Salafists with their literal interpretation of Islam, condemned nasheeds, saying music was un-Islamic and a distraction from studying the Qu’ran.

“Most jihadi groups tend to recycle nasheeds that have been around for years, but the Islamic State has its own wing, the Ajnad Media Foundation, that’s dedicated to producing them,” says Aymenn Jawad al-Tamimi, a fellow at the Middle East Forum. “It’s using them to say it’s new and distinct, as well as to get across its message.” Behnam agreed, pointing out ISIS’ nasheeds often contain a different message to other groups. “Older nasheeds tend to have been produced by groups that are small, militant and clandestine, and they have a more defensive message, such as, ‘They can torture us, but we are holding to our beliefs.’ The Islamic State’s nasheeds are not defensive at all. They are about a hope to change the world for ever (sic).” (TERRORISM ANALYSIS, TANDF ONLINE, TERRORISM ANALYSIS, GUARDIAN)
Suspicious Packages

Terrorists and criminals alike remain interested in using the postal and commercial shipping industry to send packages containing explosives, suspicious substances, and other materials. In addition, terrorists may attempt to hand deliver packages, possibly disguised as legitimate deliveries. Successful delivery of harmful substances and the ensuing publicity it causes can reinforce terrorists’ beliefs that packages containing potentially harmful substances can be delivered without suspicion or will not be discovered until the recipient opens the letter or package. Delivery services, whether postal, commercial or private, contain thousands of points of access and terrorists may continue to exploit them as a mechanism for arranging/receiving attack planning logistics and conducting targeted threats, hoax incidents, and attacks.

For example, in spring 2016, AQAP’s English-language INSPIRE magazine offered detailed design and delivery instructions for The Parcel Bomb, in an article titled “Home Assassinations.”

Postal, shipping, or delivery threats can occur at any time and target any organization or individual, including from terrorists or individuals with a grievance against a particular company. As long as terrorists have low cost and easy access to postal/shipping/delivery services and are capable of hand delivering items, all organizations should consider comprehensive mail screening an essential part of a complete security program.

- Possible terrorist-related incidents involving the postal/shipping/delivery services sector will involve partnerships and collaboration among the private sector, federal and local governments, and first responders.
- These partnerships will play a vital role in lifesaving actions, incident mitigation, evidence preservation, and investigation to identify the perpetrator(s).
- In the event the package is deemed “suspect” and requires additional evaluation by subject matter experts, such as bomb technicians or hazardous material teams, first responders should always follow specific departmental policies, standard operating procedures, and establish protocols for a suspicious package. (JCAT)

Private Sector Partners

Organizations and businesses may consider having a letter and package screening program designed to fit the organization’s threat as a potential target.

- Screen all mail and packages when they first arrive at any mailroom for sorting. Offsite screening of mail has the potential to lessen exposure or damage.
- Staff who sort mail by hand should be properly trained to perform the screening, as they are the ones most likely to notice a suspicious item.
- Prominently display a list of suspicious letter and package indicators in the mailroom and provide a copy of the list to all staff to ensure they are familiar with it.
- Document response procedures to follow once a threat is identified and perform continual staff training on these procedures. Quick and safe response to a possible threat is just as important as finding the threat itself.

A letter and package screening program should include screening messenger/courier deliveries which may bypass day-to-day traditional mail/shipping screening or sorting.

- Delivery/messenger/courier personnel/company identification.
- Ensure expected delivery by recipient(s).
- Knowledge of suspicious indicators is recommended for security screening personnel. (JCAT)
Indicators
Packages and/or envelopes containing suspicious items/substances may have characteristics that can alert handlers/sorters or recipients to the potential danger. Knowledge of the following indicators is recommended for all security personnel, private sector mail facility personnel, and first responders who may come in contact with suspicious letters and packages.

Any cause for concerns regarding suspicious packages should be taken seriously. One of these items or a combination can indicate a package should be deemed suspicious and further vetting is needed:

- Individuals with significantly altered appearance or dressed in a manner that appears intended to avoid identification,
- Displays body language and movements which purposefully avoids security cameras,
- Senders that do not know the address of the recipient,
- Senders who ship an “excessive” number of packages but do not have a business,
- Senders who use cash to ship packages,
- Excessive postage,
- Sealed with extra tape and material,
- Restrictive markings like “Personal” or “Private,”
- Lack of a return address,
- Lopsided or uneven package,
- Strange odors, stains or leakage,
- Badly typed or written addressing,
- Misspelled words, and/or
- Return address from foreign country or does not match postmarking. (JCAT)

Mitigation
A suspicious package response can be complex due to the potential amount of resources needed to secure/evacuate the scene, screen for secondary devices, provide potential lifesaving or decontamination needs, render safe actions, and investigation start-up. Multi-disciplined training and exercises with the postal/shipping/delivery services sector can help identify gaps—while allowing each partner to understand its limitations during an incident response—and develop a coordinated response plan, which is necessary to mitigate threats, save lives and property, and preserve evidence for investigators.

Safety reminder for first responders: chemicals and toxins in small amounts and even the most rudimentary of devices are inherently dangerous and should be treated accordingly, until rendered safe by subject matter experts.

- Treat a letter/package as “suspicious” until it has been cleared by subject matter experts.
- Follow agency or department policies, standard operating procedures, and established protocols for a suspicious package response.
- Notify appropriate authorities and subject matter experts.
- Avoid using radio transmissions or cell phone use—including taking pictures—in the line of sight or vicinity of the suspicious package.
- Do not move the package!
- Do not put in water or confined spaces.
- Isolate the package and evacuate area.
- Attempt to verify sender. Was the package sent by the indicated party?
- Attempt to verify recipient. Was the package expected? What are the contents? (JCAT)

Images from Inspire issue 15 depicting different types of packages which can be used depending on the size of the bomb and weight of the package. (AQAP)
1 **MICHIGAN:** Man Charged for Committing Act of Terrorism  
On 22 March, CANPER Amor M. Ftouhi, 50, of Montreal, Canada—who was previously indicted in July 2017 for charges relating to an attack on a Bishop Airport officer in Flint, Michigan—was charged with an additional offense of committing an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries. According to court records, Ftouhi entered the US from Canada to kill US government personnel.

- On 16 June 2017, while in Canada, Ftouhi conducted online research of American gun laws and for gun shows in Michigan. Ftouhi traveled to Michigan where he was unsuccessful in purchasing a gun and purchased a knife instead. On 20 June 2017, Ftouhi stabbed the police officer in the neck with a knife.
- Ftouhi referenced killings in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and yelled “Allahu Akbar.” After his arrest, Ftouhi advised law enforcement he was a “soldier of Allah” and subscribed to the ideology of al-Qa’ida and Usama Bin Laden.
- Ftouhi will be arraigned on the new indictment in federal court in Flint, Michigan, and faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. The charges contained in the indictment are merely allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. (DOJ)

2 **OHIO:** Man Convicted for Conspiring to Support ISIS  
As of 20 March, USPER Erick Jamal Hendricks, 37, from Charlotte, North Carolina, was convicted of conspiring to provide material support to ISIS, and will be sentenced at a date to be determined. The guilty verdict was announced following a two-week trial. Hendricks tried to recruit people to train together and conduct terrorist attacks in the United States on behalf of ISIS, according to court documents and trial testimony.

- In the spring of 2015, Hendricks contacted amir al-Ghazi—who was arrested in June 2015 after attempting to purchase a weapon from an undercover law enforcement officer—over social media to recruit him, and allegedly told Ghazi he “needed people” and wanted to meet in person; there were several “brothers” located in Texas and Mexico; he was attempting to “get brothers to meet face to face;” and he wanted “to get brothers to train together.” Ghazi previously pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization and being a felon in possession of firearms. He is awaiting sentencing.
- Hendricks told another person his goal was to create a sleeper cell which would conduct attacks in the US. He mentioned potential targets included military members whose information was released by ISIS and the woman who organized the “Draw Prophet Mohammad contest.” He claimed to have 10 members signed up for his group.
- On 23 April 2015, Hendricks used social media to contact a man who, along with another individual, was inspired by ISIS and launched the 3 May 2015 attack on the “First Annual Muhammad Art Exhibit and Contest” in Garland, Texas. (DOJ)

* The charges listed are currently allegations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
3  **UNITED KINGDOM:** Parsons Green Tube Bomber Sentenced

On 23 March, Ahmed Hassan, 18, was sentenced to a minimum of 34 years in prison for planting an explosive device which partially exploded on the Parsons Green Tube in September 2017, injuring 51. The presiding judge treated the incident as a terrorist offense.

- The judge believed Hassan quietly planned and executed the attack with ruthless determination and almost military efficiency, while pretending to be a model asylum-seeker. ([BBC](https://www.bbc.com/))

4  **UNITED KINGDOM:** Teacher Sentenced for Training Children to Conduct Attacks

On 27 March, authorities sentenced self-styled teacher Umar Haque, 25, to life in prison with a minimum term of 25 years for training an "army of children" to conduct attacks. Haque planned to use guns and a car packed with explosives to hit 30 high-profile targets including Big Ben, Heathrow Airport and the Queen's Guard.

- Despite having no teaching qualifications, Haque had access to 250 children at two east London schools and a madrassa over the course of five years where he tried to radicalize 110 of the children.

- Haque trained the children by role playing attacks at Ripple Road mosque in Barking, London, by re-enacting attacks on police officers, according to authorities. Haque also played IS propaganda to pupils at a Muslim school—Lantern of Knowledge in Leyton—where he taught Islamic studies between April 2015 and January 2016.

- Authorities became aware of Haque after he attempted travel to Turkey in April 2016. In electronically intercepted conversations with two conspirators, Haque spoke about being inspired by the Westminster Bridge attack in March 2017.

- In addition, Abuthaher Mamun, 19, and confidant Muhammad Abid, 27, were convicted for supporting Haque. ([NEWS SKY](https://news.sky.com/))

5  **WORLDWIDE:** US State Department Designates Katibat al-Imam al-Bukhari (KIB) a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) Group

On 22 March, the Department of State designated KIB as an SDGT group. This designation seeks to deny KIB the resources it needs to plan and conduct further terrorist attacks.

- KIB is the largest Uzbek fighting force in Syria, and has played a significant role in the fighting in northwestern Syria. KIB has fought alongside groups including al-Nusra Front.

- In December 2015, KIB posted a video of a training camp for children, where children are taught to handle and fire weapons, and, in April 2017, KIB published a video showing armed men taking part in clashes.

Separately, as of 25 March, the Syrian Liberation Front (JTS) and KIB each released separate public statements rejecting the US designation, and claimed KIB does not affiliate outside of Syria and its activities are meant to “defend the civilians against the Syrian regime and ISIS.” ([DOS](https://www.state.gov/), [JTS](https://www.syriainsurrection.com/), [KIB](https://www.katibatalkhabar.org/))

6  **WORLDWIDE:** US State Department Designates Joe Asperman a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT)

On 22 March, the Department of State designated French National Joe Asperman as a SDGT. This designation seeks to deny Asperman the resources he needs to plan and conduct further terrorist attacks.

- Asperman was a senior chemical weapons expert for ISIS. He oversaw chemical operations production within Syria for ISIS and the deployment of these chemical weapons at the battlefront.

- This designation notifies the US public and the international community that Asperman has committed, or poses a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism. ([DOS](https://www.state.gov/))
7 WORLDWIDE: Al-Qa’ida Leader Releases New Speech

As of 20 March, al-Qa’ida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri released a new speech, titled “America, the First Enemy of the Muslims.” In the 17-minute video message, Zawahiri called for all Muslims to unite to establish the caliphate and “confront America in unison.”

- Zawahiri hinted at a global vision, stating “East and West [Jerusalem] belong to us. Haifa, Akko, Jaffa, and all of Palestine belong to us. Grozny, Manila, and Al Andalus [southern Spain] belong to us.”
- The video ends with on-screen text reading “We are coming, O Jerusalem.”
- This is the sixth speech released by Zawahiri in 2018.

8 WORLDWIDE: JNIM Releases High-Level Production Video

On 21 March, JNIM—al-Qa’ida’s branch in Western Africa and the Sahel—released a new video highlighting multiple training camps and military raids.

- The video began with a short speech from al-Qa’ida amir Ayman al Zawahiri, who incited his followers in North Africa and across the Sahel to target France and its allies in the region.
- Special focus was given to the 27 January assault on a Malian army position near Soumpi in the Timbuktu region. At least 14 Malian soldiers were killed in that raid as JNIM fighters were seen overrunning the camp and killing the Malian soldiers.

9 FRANCE: Attacker Takes Hostages, Kills Four, Wounds 16

On 23 March, French authorities named Moroccan-born French national Tedouane Lakdim, 26, as the deceased attacker who hijacked a car, killing one occupant in the city of Carcassonne. Lakdim then fired on a group of police joggers, wounding one. Lakdem traveled to a supermarket in Trebes and seized hostages, killing two, and wounding 15. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack.

- Lakdim released the hostages after Lieutenant Colonel Arnaud Beltrame offered to take their place. Security forces entered the supermarket after Lakdim shot the officer who was seriously wounded and has now died.
- Investigators recovered three IEDs, a handgun, and a hunting knife in the supermarket, according to authorities. Searches of Lakdim’s residence showed notes referring to ISIS, a phone, and a computer.
- Lakdim was known to authorities for drug-dealing and other petty crimes, but was under surveillance by security services in 2016-2017 for links to the radical Salafist movement.
- French authorities detained an unnamed man, 17, and his girlfriend Marine P. who were both allegedly close to Ladkim. Marine is currently under investigation by French authorities.
- In addition, the ISIS claim calls the attacker “a soldier of the Islamic state” who carried out the attack “in response to calls to attack coalition countries.”
**JCAT:** A terrorist attack may encompass multiple locations, requiring varying response needs. Real-time information sharing between intelligence liaisons, state and local first responders, and private-sector partners is critical to ensure an accurate understanding of the current threat environment. This coordination will help ensure the establishment of a unified command that can provide incident(s) stabilization through an efficient and unified response, as well as a smooth transition from the tactical and life-saving rescue efforts to the investigation phase. In addition, coordination will also bring a clearer understanding to support good decision making and appropriate response with respect to public messaging of emergency information by agencies.

**FRANCE:** Authorities Sentence Former Military Member

On 23 March, two French citizens, Erwan Guillard, a.k.a. Abu Qatada, 29, and Tewffik Bouallag, 34, received 12- and 14-year jail sentences respectively for their activities as part of ISIS in 2013 and 2014.

- In 2009, Guillard spent six months with the army to become a paratrooper and received training in weapons, and gave up pursuing his military career.
- In April 2014, the two men appeared in an unofficial ISIS video filmed by deceased French-language ISIS media operative and Moroccan ISIS fighter, Abdallah Guitone, a.k.a. Abu Tamima.
- When Guillard returned to France in 2014, he surrendered himself to police and acknowledged he had fought, but claimed he had not committed any abuses.
- The general council stated Guillard was not an ordinary fighter and was a group leader who was involved in armed conflict supporting Nusra Front and ISIS. ([LEFIGARO](https://www.lefigaro.fr))

**ITALY:** Anti-Terror Police Arrest Man Accused of Links to ISIS

On 27 March, anti-terrorism police arrested an unidentified Egyptian man with Italian citizenship, 58, in the city of Foggia for suspected links to ISIS and using the Al Dawa Islamic cultural center to spread violent jihadist propaganda. The man was accused of apologizing for terrorism and association for the purpose of terrorism and allegedly praised ISIS attacks on social media and posted material glorifying the group.

- The man is suspected of attempting to spread similar propaganda at the cultural association of which he was president, and where he was in charge of teaching religious lessons to children as young as 4 years old.
- Authorities arrested the man as part of an investigation codenamed “Bad Teacher,” the latest in a series of anti-terror operations in Foggia within the past year.
- There have been four arrests and two expulsions since May 2017, which have had some connection to the Al Dawa center. ([THE LOCAL](https://www.thelocal.it))

**JORDAN:** Authorities Charge 15 ISIS-Linked Members Targeting Police Intelligence

On 25 March, the military-run state security court will examine a list of charges against a dormant cell of 15 ISIS-linked members for planning terrorist attacks on employees at the Intelligence Bureau, the Police directorate and a security center in Russeifa, 15 kilometers northeast of Amman.

- The suspects face seven charges which include plotting to conduct terrorist attacks, possession of weapons for use in terrorist activities, spreading ideologies of terrorist groups, selling weapons, and not reporting information linked to terrorist operations.
- According to charges, the suspects pledged allegiance to the first suspect as the amir of the cell, representing ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Based on this pledge, the first four suspects agreed to conduct attacks on members of the Russeifa intelligence office.
- The third suspect planned attacks on members of the intelligence office for previously arresting him on criminal charges. ([AAWSAT](https://www.aaawsat.com))
13 **SYRIA**: German Violent Jihadist Captured by Kurdish Militia

On 22 March, Bonn-based Fared Saal, a.k.a. Abu Luqman, 29, was captured and detained by the Kurdish YPG militia in northern Syria. In June 2017, Fared was classified by the UN as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.

- In 2013, Saal traveled to Syria with his wife Karolina R. and joined the violent jihadist group Junud al-Sham and later joined ISIS. Karolina R. returned to Germany and sent money and equipment to her husband. She was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison.
- In 2014, Saal was seen in a video with ISIS fighters who killed dozens at the Shaar gas field. Saal was also responsible for the violent jihadist recruits on the northern Syrian border.
- German authorities declared Germany cannot provide consular assistance for German citizens in Syria and announced it would withdraw Saal’s citizenship.
- On 16 June 2017, the US Department of Treasury designated Saal as an SDGT—prior to the UN designation—for acting on ISIS’ behalf. ([BILD, DOT](#))

14 **QATAR**: First Terrorism List Released ‘Under Decree Issued By Prince Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani’

On 22 March, the Qatari Ministry of Interior listed 19 people and eight entities, including the Yemeni Charity Association and the State Organization of Sinai (Egypt), on its first list of terrorism. The list was published by the committee on its website and is the first terrorism list issued by Qatar “under a decree issued by Prince Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on counter-terrorism in July 2017.”

- On 12 July, Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding with the US in key areas of CT, such as exchanging intelligence, combating terrorist financing and sharing expertise. The Emir of Qatar issued a decree in the same month to amend some provisions of the anti-terrorism law. Under the decree, “the system of two national lists of individuals and terrorist entities” was introduced.
- Qatar issued a list under the same law on 25 October, but as part of a collective action taken by all member states at the CT Center, which includes several countries including the US and the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- The list included 11 Qatari and two Saudi nationals and four Egyptians and two Jordanians and included eight entities, six of them Qatari. ([ARABI21](#))

15 **EGYPT**: Car Bomb Kills Two Policemen, Police Raid Kills Six Violent Extremists

On 24 March, two Egyptian policemen were killed and up to five others were wounded in Alexandria when a bomb placed under a car detonated as city security chief Gen. Mostafa al-Nimr’s convoy passed by. Gen. Nimr survived the explosion which took place two days before Egypt began its presidential election.

- On 25 March, Egyptian police raided a “terrorist den” and killed six violent extremists belonging to the armed wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Hasam Movement. ([AP, REUTERS](#))
JCAT: Terrorists remain interested in targeting convoys. Attacks using IEDs can be highly effective, as concealment tactics may permit delivery near a target without arousing suspicion, challenging first responders’ ability to detect and deter an attack. Understanding terrorists’ target selection and methodology against motorcades is valuable to first responder organizations, particularly those organizations which regularly work with motorcades.

EGYPT: Court Refers 30 ISIS-Affiliates for Planning Church Bombings

On 21 March, Egyptian authorities referred 30 ISIS-affiliated violent extremists to the Supreme State Security Emergency Criminal Court on charges of planning to conduct an attack against Egyptian Christians and churches. Authorities stated the accused were charged with establishing a terrorist group that embraces ISIS’ extremist dogma, while being supplied with money, weapons, and explosives to conduct their actions, and with receiving military training at ISIS camps in Syria and Libya.

- According to authorities, an ISIS leader codenamed “Nour” received orders from ISIS leadership to establish a group in Egypt which targeted the country’s ruler, armed and police forces, and Christians.
- Nour allegedly established a group with two cells, conducted training, and selected some members to conduct suicide bombings. The group was also detected communicating using secure messaging services like Telegram.
- The group members attended military training in Egypt and abroad. They were trained to manufacture and deploy improvised explosive devices and suicide vests in preparation for attacks in Egypt.
- The 30 defendants were planning to target the Church of Saint Maximus & Domadius in Alexandria, and the Church of the Virgin Mary and Saint Bishay in Damietta, as well as three other Christian houses of worship in Giza and Beheira governorates. (AHRAM)
**New US-Funded CT Training Center in Jordan**

On 23 March, Amman and Washington unveiled the Jordan Gendarmerie Training Academy, specializing in counterterrorism training, which is connected to the Jordanian Police Academy in Suwaqah. The new academy was funded, constructed, and equipped through the Department of State’s Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program, which will contribute to combatting terrorism and preserving international peace in the region.

“Once fully operational, the new training center, part of a larger Gendarmerie training facility, will double ATA’s regional counterterrorism training capacity in Jordan, in hard skills such as crisis response, explosive incident countermeasures, post-blast investigations, and tactical medicine,” according to a statement by US Embassy Amman. ([AAWSAT](https://www.aawsat.com))

**Sultan Bin Zayed Centre Hosts Lecture on UAE Media and Combating Violent Extremism**

On 21 March, the Sultan bin Zayed Centre hosted a lecture—titled “The role of UAE media in combating violent extremist and destructive ideas”—which was attended by Deputy Director-General of the Center Mansour Saeed Al Mansouri, directors of administration, media professors, students, and center employees. The media had a large role in informing the public about daily issues, including topics related to national security and international events. Additionally, the UAE has adopted a policy aimed at promoting sustainable development as one of the major steps to combat terrorism. ([MENAFN](https://www.menafn.com))

**UK Mosques Launch Anti-Radicalization Scheme**

On 22 March, the anti-radicalization program, “Safe and Secure,” was launched in mosques as an alternative to the government’s “Prevent” strategy. The purpose of the program is to attract many of the people who the “Prevent” scheme aimed to cover—including teachers, social workers, NHS staff, the police and probation workers—and address similar concerns, but without “stigmatizing Muslims;” however, one of the main distinguishing features drawn between their Safe and Secure program and Prevent was they aimed to tackle themes other than radicalization. ([THE GUARDIAN](https://www.theguardian.com))

**Egyptian and Indian Foreign Ministers Discuss Bolstering Bilateral Cooperation**

On 23 March, the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukry and his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj met in New Delhi to participate in the 7th session of the Egyptian-Indian joint higher committee. Both parties discussed bilateral relations and concerns over regional and international issues, mostly touching on the Egyptian-Indian cooperation to combat terrorism. In addition, Shoukry praised the Indian votes for the draft resolutions presented by Cairo to the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council regarding counterterrorism efforts. ([EGYPT TODAY](https://www.egypttoday.com))

**JCAT:** This anti-radicalization program, “Safe and Secure,” launched in mosques, highlights a unified Countering Violent Extremist (CVE) effort among social services, education, and health care providers, and conducting outreach to at-risk communities to increase their social support and resilience. Inclusion of a broad range of multi-discipline partners assists in the identification of at-risk individuals, and is a key component to ensure the sharing of information, which may allow for the early detection of the radicalization process, and assist with intervention/prevention efforts.
1 UNITED KINGDOM: Man Arrested for Terrorism Offenses

On 25 March, an unnamed man, 24, was arrested in east London by Metropolitan Police on suspicion of belonging to a proscribed organization, contrary to Section 11 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The man was taken into custody under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, released on bail, and is scheduled to return to a central London police station in mid-April. (MET POLICE)

2 WORLDWIDE: Pro-Al-Qa’ida Supporters Release Compilation of Atiyatullah’s Work

As of 24 March, pro-al-Qa’ida supporters released a compilation of the entire work of deceased al-Qa’ida official Atiyatullah, totaling 1957 pages. The compilation is introduced by Saif al Adl, Abu Qatada al-Filistini, Abu Mohammed al-Maqdisi, Hani Sibai, Sami al Uraydi, Abu Iyad al Tunisi (Abu Julaybib), Abu Mariyah al-Qahtani and others. (AL-QA’IDA)

3 WORLDWIDE: Al-Qa’ida Releases Bulletin Calling for Unity

On 23 March, al-Qa’ida released the first issue of the Fighting Journalists bulletin, titled “Do Not Fight Your Brothers.” The new publication emphasized conflict between leaders should not lead to killing “brothers” as “most of the soldiers do not agree with them [leaders] or are being deceived.” It threatens those who fight among one another will be “helpless on Judgment Day.” (AL-QA’IDA)

4 WORLDWIDE: Al-Qa’ida Releases Al-Nafir 25

As of 23 March, al-Qa’ida released the 25th edition of its al-Nafir bulletin, titled “Oh If My People Would Know.” The publication focused on unity among violent jihadists, specifically in Syria, and stated “jihad in Syria is only just beginning.” (AL-NAFIR)

5 WORLDWIDE: Al-Qa’ida Releases Al-Hijrah 40

On 23 March, al-Qa’ida released the 40th edition of its al-Hijrah bulletin, titled “Mobilizing The Ummah For Jihad.” The issue recognized terrorist groups in East Africa for “uniting the tribes under the flag of jihad and tawheed.” (AL-HIJRAH)

6 WORLDWIDE: ISIS Publishes Al-Naba 124

On 22 March, ISIS released the 124th issue of its weekly al-Naba newsletter. The issue highlighted a greater focus on Russia, claiming “Russia will be defeated at our hands.” The newsletter also commented on the recent sentencing of Parsons Green Tube attacker. (AL-NABA)

7 GERMANY: Authorities Arrest Suspected ISIS Supporter

On 22 March, German-Algerian Samir K., 32, was arrested for supporting ISIS. German authorities claim that from 2015 to 2017, Samir K. created Telegram and Twitter accounts, WhatsApp and Facebook profiles and e-mail addresses using multiple aliases to facilitate communication between ISIS members from Syria and Iraq. Samir K. will be detained until his trial. (KSTA)
RUSSIA: ISIS Video Depicts Attacker of Police ‘Elements’ in Groznyy, Chechnya
On 21 March, ISIS’ A’maq news agency released a statement claiming an ISIS fighter conducted an attack against police elements in the Chechen capital of Groznyy and attached an image depicting an A’maq news agency bulletin claiming the same. ISIS also released a 1-minute 49-second video with Arabic-language subtitles depicting the “will of the perpetrator of the attack against the Chechen police elements.” In the video, a speaker threatens “apostates” and calls for “kidnapping and killing all apostates, wherever you might find them.” (ISIS)

KOSOVO: Court Clears Grande Mosque Imam of Inciting Terrorism
On 23 March, imam of the Grand Mosque of Pristina Shefqet Krasniqi was acquitted of charges he encouraged Kosovars to join violent extremist groups in Syria and Iraq after his arrest in 2014. Approximately 300 Kosovars have gone to Syria and Iraq since 2012 to fight with ISIS and approximately 70 have been killed. Kosovo’s population is 90 percent Muslim but largely secular in outlook and no violent extremist attacks have occurred on its soil. (REUTERS)

TURKEY: Authorities Remand 14 ISIS Members in Istanbul
On 23 March, authorities conducted simultaneous CT operations across nine districts of Istanbul, which resulted in the capture of 14 suspected ISIS members, 13 of whom were foreign nationals. The suspects were taken for questioning and accused of being ISIS members and plotting a terror act. During the raids, organizational documents and digital materials were seized. (YENISAFAK)

IRAQ: Authorities Arrest Senior ISIS Media Officer
On 26 March, authorities arrested ISIS chief media editor Abu Saif al-Iraqi, who was in charge of publishing ISIS’ propaganda bulletin al-Naba. ISIS has run several media outlets propagating their operations and even publicizing executions of civilians and security members since they took over a third of Iraq in 2014 to proclaim a self-styled “caliphate” in Iraq and neighboring Syria. (IRAQI NEWS)

IRAQ: Authorities Arrest Hamas-Linked Chemist
On 23 March, Iraqi authorities arrested and interrogated Hamas-linked Iraqi bomb expert Taha al-Jubouri, 64, upon his arrival to Baghdad International Airport, after being deported from Turkey. In January, Jubouri was allegedly apprehended in the Philippines for entry documentation issues, after which he left to Istanbul where he resided legally with his wife. (IRAQI NEWS)

IRAQ: ISIS Claims Attack on Civilian Bus
On 21 March, ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on a civilian bus targeting two families celebrating Nawruz—the Iranian New Year. At least 20 people were killed after the bus was allegedly stopped at a fake checkpoint in Baghdad. (IRAQI NEWS)

JORDAN: Authorities Sentence Two for Plotting Attacks on Embassies
On 22 March, two Jordanian nationals—arrested in March 2016—were sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labor for belonging to ISIS, manufacturing explosives, and planning to conduct attacks against the Amman-based embassies of Israel, Russia, and Iran. (ARAB NEWS)

PALESTINE: Security Operation Targets Prime Minister Hamdallah’s Attackers
On 22 March, authorities conducted an operation aimed at arresting the main suspect of the 13 March bomb attack on the motorcade of West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah’s convoy. Two suspects, Anas Abu Khousa and Abdul Hadi al-Ashab, resisted arrest and exchanged fire with authorities during the operation, both sustained critical injuries and later died. Two members of Hamas security forces were also killed during the operation. PA President Mahmoud Abbashas accused Hamas of orchestrating the 13 March attack, which Hamas has denied. (AL JAZEERA, REUTERS)
16 **YEMEN:** Authorities Arrest Local ISIS Leader During Raid

On 21 March, Yemeni police arrested a local ISIS leader during a raid on an ISIS safehouse in the al Mansoura district, Aden city. Authorities seized a cache of explosive devices and documents from the safehouse. The ISIS member admitted involvement in a complex explosive attack that targeted Emirati-backed forces in al Mansoura on 13 March and assassinations targeting local security forces in al Mansoura on 4 March. Authorities advised that seized documents and interrogations will allow counterterrorism forces to stop multiple plots. (ADENGAD)

17 **LIBYA:** US Airstrike Kills Two Terrorists

On 24 March, US forces announced the death of AQIM official Musa Abu Dawud and one other terrorist after a UAS targeted a house where al-Qa'ida affiliates were holding a meeting in Ubari. The Head of the President Council of the Government of National Accord Mohamed El Sallak said the airstrike was coordinated beforehand with the US. This is the first time Ubari was the location of a “terrorist hunting” airstrike. (REUTERS, LIBYAN EXPRESS, AFRICOM)

18 **SOMALIA:** US Conducts Airstrike Against Al-Shabaab

On the morning of 19 March, US forces, in coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia, conducted an airstrike against al-Shabaab near Mubaarak, killing two terrorists and wounding three. (AFRICOM)

19 **SOMALIA:** VBIED Attack Kills 14, Wounds 10

On 22 March, al-Shabaab claimed a VBIED attack near the Weheliye hotel in Mogadishu, which killed 14 and wounded 10, according to an interior ministry spokesman. (AFP, AP)

20 **EGYPT:** ISIS Sinai Releases Video Ahead of Presidential Election

As of 23 March, ISIS Sinai released a 26-minute video featuring scenes of fighting, ambushes, or assaults being conducted by its members. Unlike the last video, which was devoted to Afghanistan, ISIS supporters outside of Egypt were not encouraged to migrate to Sinai. The video includes multiple recordings of Abu Ali al-Anbari whose audio lessons were broadcasted in a loop on the telegram channels of ISIS Sinai supporters for several days prior. (ISIS)

21 **NIGERIA:** Boko Haram Returns Dozens of Kidnapped Schoolgirls

On 22 March, dozens of schoolgirls—kidnapped more than a month ago—were returned to their village by Boko Haram members, though there were suspicions several girls had died. (NYT)

22 **AFGHANISTAN:** Suicide Attack in Afghanistan Kills at Least 14 at Wrestling Match

On 23 March, a suicide attacker detonated a SVBIED near a crowd leaving an evening wrestling match in Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province, killing at least 14 and wounding 42, according to Afghan government officials. Authorities said the driver of the car detonated his bomb after they prevented him from entering the venue. The blast occurred as Afghans were celebrating the victory of their national cricket team in a match that qualified them for next year’s World Cup. There was no immediate claim for responsibility. (NYT, REUTERS, CNN)
23 AFGHANISTAN: ISIS Claims Suicide Attack Which Kills Over 30 Near Shrine In Kabul

On 22 March, ISIS claimed responsibility for a suicide attack which detonated near a shrine in Kabul, killing at least 32 people and wounding dozens as the Afghan capital celebrated Nawruz—the Iranian New Year. In October 2016, the bomber intended to reach the shrine, which was attacked during a Shia festival, but was prevented by police checkpoints, according to an Interior Ministry spokesman. (REUTERS)

24 AFGHANISTAN: ISIS Claims Suicide Attack Against Shia Mosque

On 25 March, a suicide attack near a Shia Mosque in Herat killed at least one person and wounded eight others. Two bombers tried to enter the mosque compound but were challenged by security guards who opened fire on them. One of the bombers was shot by the security guards and the second detonated his explosives. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack. (REUTERS)

25 INDIA: Woman Sentenced to Prison for Attempting to Migrate to ISIS-Held Territory

On 24 March, Yasmeen Mohammed Zahid, 30, was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for attempting to migrate to ISIS-held territory in Afghanistan. The court observed it was evident Zahid and first accused Abdul Rashid Abdulla—who indoctrinated others to perform hijra (holy migration) and coordinated the recruitment drive for ISIS in Kerala—had the inclination to join ISIS. There are 15 accused in the case of which 14 Kasargod natives migrated to ISIS territory in Afghanistan in 2015 and 2016. (INDIAN EXPRESS)

26 BANGLADESH: Two ‘Neo JMB’ Leaders Held

On 25 March, police announced the arrests of Akram Hossein Khan Niloy, 26, and Hadisur Rahman Sagor, 36. Niloy allegedly used to fund “Neo JMB” and was involved in all its activities—such as being the mastermind of the 2017 Hotel Olio International attack—while Sagor allegedly supplied arms and explosives used in the Gulshan attack. Additionally, Sagor was also said to be the brother-in-law of Nurul Islam Marzan, a top “Neo JMB” operative who was also a planner of the café siege. (THE DAILY STAR)

27 MALAYSIA: Police Arrest Seven Men With ISIS Links

From 27 February to 15 March, Malaysian police conducted multiple operations resulting in the arrests of seven men who had links to ISIS. The men were allegedly planning attacks on non-Muslim places of worship and other targets. Six of the men were Malaysian nationals arrested in Johor, while the seventh was a Filipino member of the ISIS-linked Abu Sayyaf Group detained in Sabah. (REUTERS)
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.