



Danger Zones

Terrorist Groups: Origins and Current Territories

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Danger Zone #1: Islamic State (IS)

The Islamic State Origins:

- Grew out of Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) formerly Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI).
- 2011 ISI members travelled to Syria forming Nusra Front.
- 2013 Abu Bakr al Baghdadi claimed leadership, group rejected.
- Baghdadi later declared 'caliphate' renaming group Islamic State.

Current Footholds:

- Main footholds in Syria and Iraq.
- Affiliate groups Sinai Provence, Libya, Khorasan Province.
- Affiliates West Africa, Greater Sahara, DR of Congo, Mozambique.
- Affiliate groups in the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Known Terrorists attacks:

- **2015 Nov.** in Paris at Bataclan theatre: 129 dead over 400 injured.
- **2015 Mar.** suicide bombings-4 Shia Mosques killing 140 over 350 inj.
- **2015 Apr.** attack on Garissa University in Kenya kills over 147.
- **2021 Aug.** bombing of Kabul airport kills over 170 and 13 US Military.

Known Methods

- Coordinated attacks and lone gunmen.
- Suicide Bombings.
- Kidnapping and abductions.
- Coordinated bombings and car bombs.



Danger Zone #2: Al-Shabaab

Al-Shabaab Origins:

- Was formed from al-Ittihad al-Islami (AII) or “Unity of Islam”
- In early 2000s younger members broke away forming al Shabaab.
 - 2006-2008 members swelled into the thousands
 - In 2012 pledged allegiance to Al Qaeda.

Current Footholds:

- Large sections of Somalia
 - Parts of Kenya
- Small sections of Ethiopia

Known Terrorists attacks:

- 2006 took control of Mogadishu with ICU which stabilized al Shabaab
 - Continual raids into Ethiopia
- Bombings and attacks ongoing in Mogadishu
 - Insurgence attacks into Ethiopia and Kenya

Known Methods

- Guerilla assaults and tactics
 - Assassinations
- Coordinated bombings
- Territorial occupations





Danger Zone #3: Afghan Taliban

- United factions in 1994 after the fall of Russian occupying gov.
- 1996 Captured Kabul and established Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.
 - 1996-2001 gained territories and power in Afghanistan

Origins:

- In 2021, The Taliban have regained control of Afghanistan.
 - Secret undisclosed areas in Pakistan.
 - Gaining control of areas in Central and Southern Asia.

Current Footholds:

- 2001, Sep. 11th: World Trade Center plane attack over 3000 killed
- 2019, July 1: attacked ANALA Directorate killing 40 and injur over 100
- 2019 Aug 17: suicide bombing of Kabul wedding over 80 killed 140 injured
- 2019: suicide car bomb of Kabul facility killed 16 and injured over 119

Known Terrorists attacks:

- Highjack and crash planes.
- Suicide bombings
- Guerilla cross boarder attacks
- Car bombings

Known Methods

Danger Zone #4: Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM)

Origins:

- March 2017 Sahara branch of AQIM and Al Mourabitoun joined with Ansar Dine and the Macina Liberation Front (MLF)
- Pledged allegiance to the emirs of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al Qaeda (AQ), and the Taliban.

Current Footholds:

- Territory in Northern Mali
- Areas in the Sahel region

Known Terrorists attacks:

- Attacked a Boulakessi military base in central Mali killing 11
- Suicide bombing of the Malian headquarters of the G5 Sahel 3 killed
- Currently experiencing hostilities between al-Qaeda and Islamic state

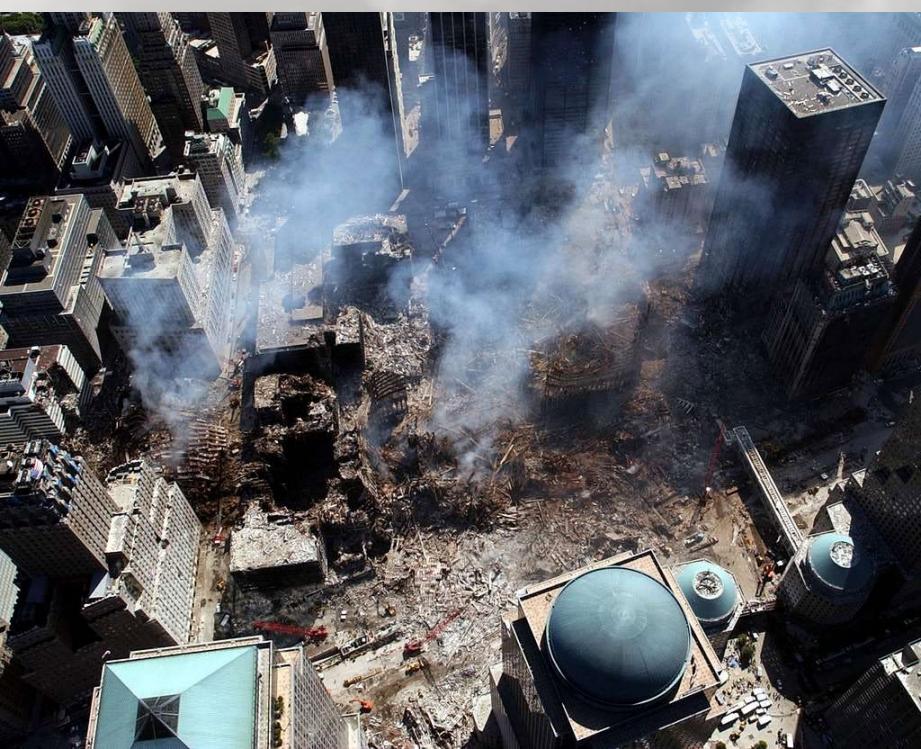
Known Methods

- Suicide bombings
- Gunmen attacks
- Improved Explosive Devices





Danger Zone #5: Al Qaeda



Origins:

- In 1988, Osama bin Laden established Al Qaeda from a network of Arab and other foreign veterans of the Afghan insurgency

Current Footholds:

- Afghanistan
- Pakistan
- Iraq
- Yemen

Known Terrorists attacks:

- 2011, Apr 8 bombing in Marrakesh kills 15
- 2010, Oct 31 gunman kills 52 hostages in a church in Baghdad
- 2010, Jan 25 Three suicide bombers kill over 36 in Baghdad
- 2007, Dec 11 Two bombs kill 41 at U.N. offices in Algiers
- 2005, Nov 9 Three hotels bombed in Amman, Jordan killing 57

Known Methods

- Planes as bombs
- Suicide bombers
- Coordinated attacks
- Car bombings

Danger Zone #6: HAMAS

Origins:

- 1987 HAMAS formed from the first Palestinian intifada (uprising)
- Roots are in the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood

Current Footholds:

- Concentrated areas of The Gaza Strip of Israel
 - Areas of the West Bank in Israel

Known Terrorists attacks:

- 2019, May 5 200 rockets fired from Gaza killing 2 Israelis
- 2021, May 11, Rocket and mortar attacks on Israeli civilians kills 12
 - 2021, May 10-20 4,369 rockets were fired at Israeli cities
- 2022, Aug 5-8 Jihads fired 1100 rockets at several cities in Israel

Known Methods

- Rocket attacks
- Improved roadside explosives
 - Large scale bombings
 - Small arms attacks





Danger Zone #7: ABU SAYYAF GROUP (ASG)



- 1990s: Formed when it split from the Moro National Liberation Front
 - Most violent of the Islamic separatist groups
- Origins:**
- Southern Philippines
 - Basilan
 - Sulu
 - Tawi-Tawi Provinces
- Current Footholds:**
- Southern Philippines
 - Basilan
 - Sulu
 - Tawi-Tawi Provinces
- Known Terrorists attacks:**
- **April 2000:** kidnapped 21 persons
 - **May 2001:** kidnapped three US citizens & 17 Filipinos from a resort in Palawan
 - **February 27, 2004:** Bombed a ferry in Manila Bay, killing 116
 - **February 14, 2005:** Perpetrated simultaneous bombings in the cities of Manila
 - **March 2013:** Released an Australian citizen the group had held hostage for fifteen months.
- Known Methods**
- Kidnapping for ransom
 - Bombings
 - Assassinations
 - Extortion

Danger Zone #8: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP)



Origins:

- Formed in May 27, 1964
- Founded by Manuel Marulanda and Jacobo Arenas in 1964
 - Originally aimed to overthrow the government
 - Claims to represent the rural population's interests

Current Footholds:

- Columbia

Known Terrorists attacks:

- **May 27, 1964:** First attack between them and the Colombian Military
 - **August 30, 1996:** Attacked Las Delicias military base 54 killed
- **March 1998:** Stationed a roadblock in Bogota. Wounded & kidnapped 28
- **August 7, 2002:** Guerrillas launched mortar shells during President Alvaro Uribe's inauguration; 14 killed, 40 wounded
- **June 22, 2015:** Bombed the Tansandio pipeline

Known Methods

- Guerrilla warfare
- Kidnapping politicians and elites
- Trafficking cocaine

Danger Zone #9: Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)

Origins:

- Founded in 1978 by Abdullah Ocalan
- Wants a Kurdish nation state

Current Footholds:

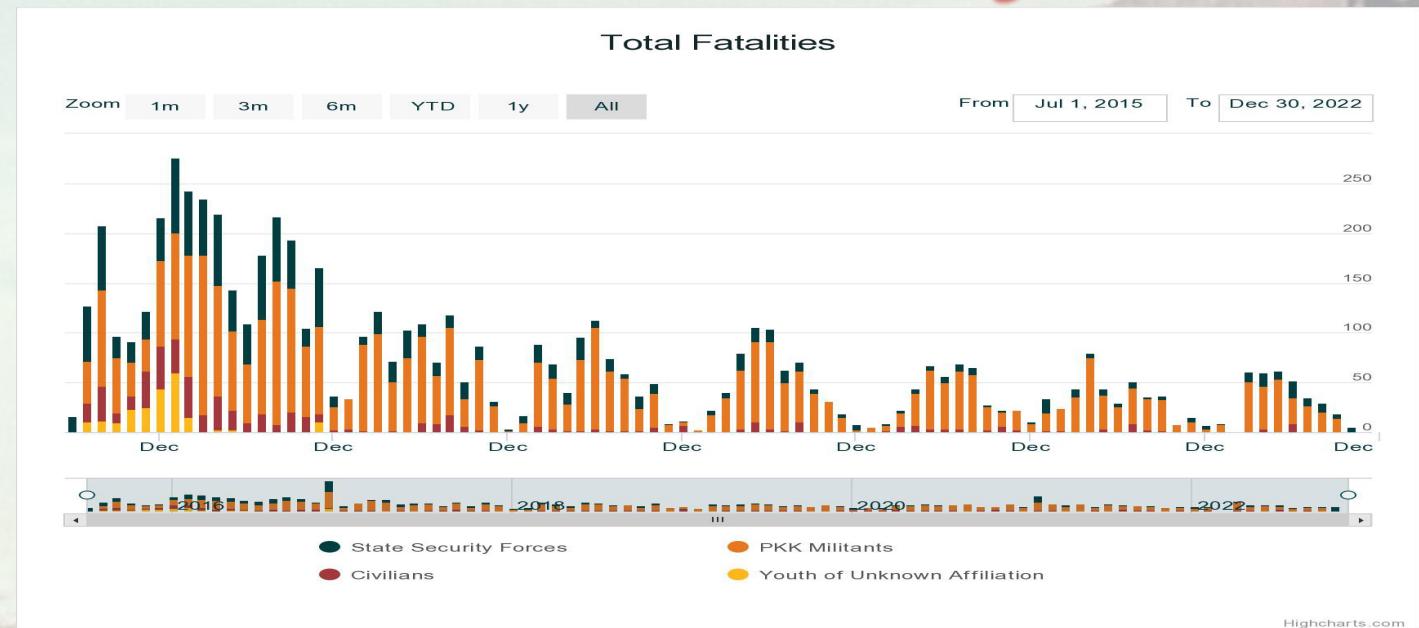
- Turkey
- Lebanon, Bekaa Valley – First Headquarters
- Iraq, Qandil Mountain- New Headquarters
- Iran
- Syria and Armenia

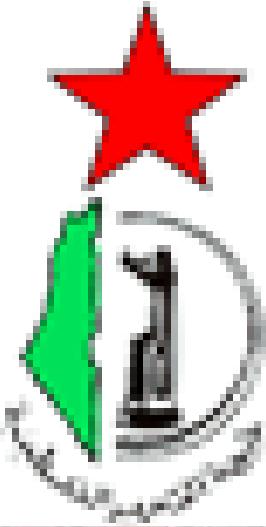
Known Terrorists attacks:

- 1984, Armed guerrilla campaign against Turkey
- Government and Civilians assassinations across Turkey
- March 16, 1996, Dortmund: Violence & angry confrontations erupted during protest
- June 1995, 379 died in clashes between Kurdish rebels & Turkish forces
- June 11, 1993, kidnapped a Tourism Ministry official
- March 22, 1994, Bern: 96 died in clashes between Kurdish rebels & Turkish forces

Known Methods

- Guerrilla operations
- IEDs and rocket propelled grenades, suicide bombers
- Kidnapping of children and other Turkish people
- Urban Snipers





Origins:

- Split off from Ahmad Jibril with his PFLP-GC group in 1970s
- Designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization on Oct. 8, 1997
- Currently led by Wasel Abu Yousef since 2007

Current Footholds:

- Iraq since 1990
- Lebanon
- West Bank
- Syria
- Gaza

Known Terrorists attacks:

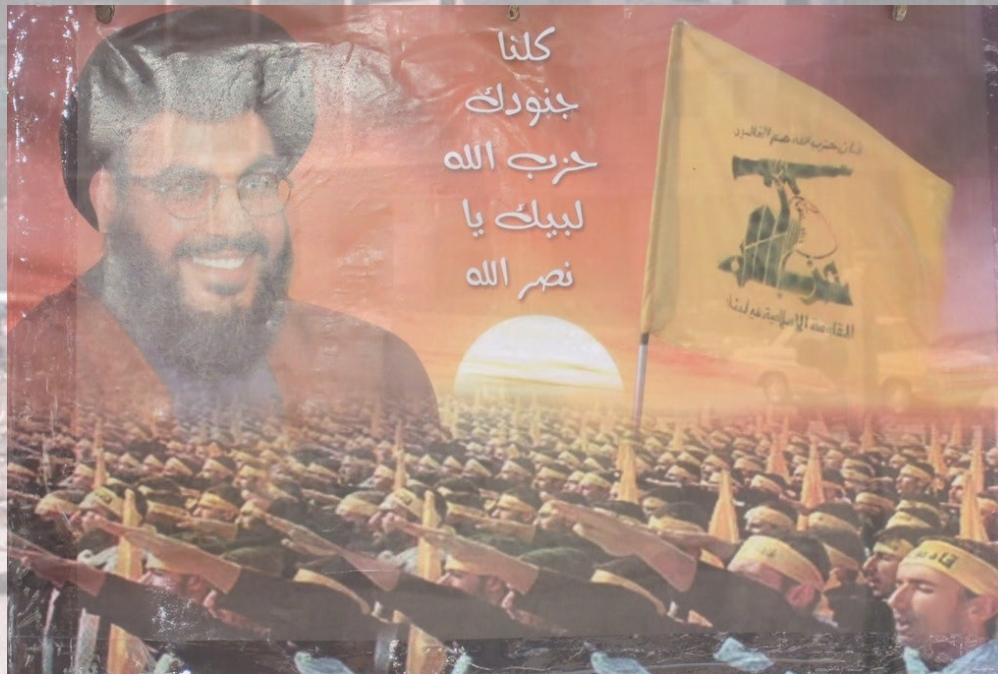
- **1985**, Attack on an Italian cruise ship, Achille Lauro
- **May 1990**, Attacked Israel's Nizanim beach near Tel Aviv
- **March 2008**, Assault on Israeli military bus in Huwarah, Israel
- **February 2010**, IED attack on IDF patrol

Known Methods

- IED attacks
- Shootings
- Hijackings

Danger Zone #10: Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)

Danger Zone #11: Hizballah



Origins of Hizballah (the "Party of God"):

- Formed in 1982 in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon
- Participates in the Lebanese Government since 1992

Current Footholds:

- Lebanon
- Syria
- Bulgaria
- Peru
- Thailand

Known Terrorists attacks:

- **April 1983**, Suicide truck bombings of the US Embassy in Beirut
- **October 1982**, US Marine barracks in Beirut
- **September 1984**, Bombing of the US Embassy annex in Beirut
- **1985**, Hijacking of TWA 847
- **1996**, Bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia

Known Methods

- Suicide bombings
- Hijacking planes
- Kidnapping Israeli soldiers and other civilians

Danger Zone #12: Irish Republican Army (RIRA)

Origins:

- Originally formed in 1919 as the IRA
- Merged with four different smaller groups in 2012
 - Real Irish Republican Army (RIRA)
 - Republican Action Against Drugs (RAAD)
 - Tyrone group
 - Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA)
- Are now called the New IRA or the Real IRA

Current Footholds:

- Northern Ireland
- Great Britain

Known Terrorists attacks:

- Responsible for over 3,000 deaths in three decades starting in 1960
- April–May 2015, there were two Real IRA bomb attacks in Londonderry
- 19 January 2019, a car bomb attack at Derry Bishop Street Courthouse
- April 21, 2021, planted an explosive device behind a PSNI officer's car

Known Methods

- Employed guerrilla tactics: ambushes, raids, and sabotage
- Utilized bombs: car, mail, packages
- Gun fights with police during riots



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