



# 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 Province, 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.
- Kidnappings and abductions.
- Coordinated bombings and car bombs.





# Danger Zone #2: Al-Shabaab

## Al-Shabaab Origins:

- Was formed from al-Ittihad al-Islami (AIAI) 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





لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

### Origins:

- 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

### Current Footholds:

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

### Known Terrorists attacks:

- **2001, Sep. 11<sup>th</sup>:** 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 Methods

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

## Danger Zone #3: Afghan Taliban





# 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 Boulikessi 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 om 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:

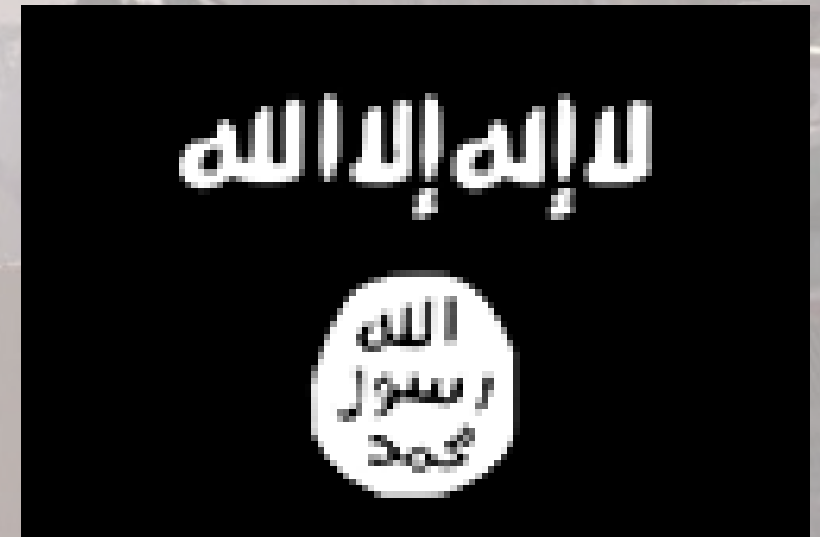
- Concentrated areas of The Gaza Strip of Israel
  - Areas of the West Bank in Israel

## 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)



### Origins:

- 1990s: Formed when it split from the Moro National Liberation Front
  - Most violent of the Islamic separatist groups

### 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

- Kidnappings 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:

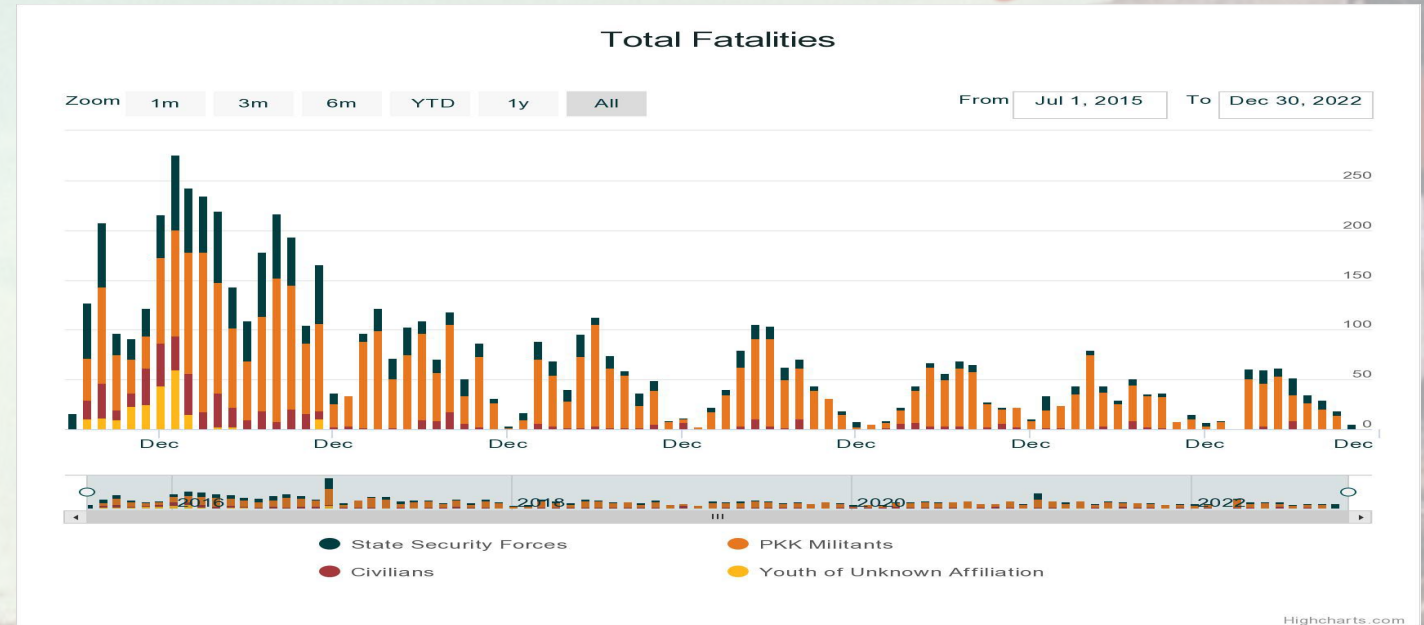
- Turkey
- Lebanon, Bekaa Valley – First Headquarters
- Iraq, Qandil Mountain- New Headquarters
- Iran
- Syria and Armenia

## Known Terrorists attacks:

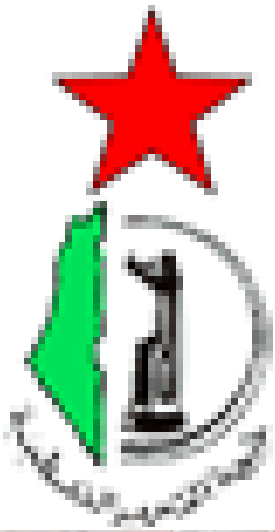
- 1984, Armed guerrilla campaign against Turkey
- Government and Civilians assassinations across Turkey
- March 16, 1996, Dortmund: Violence & angry confrontations erupted during protest
- June 1995, 379 died in clashes between Kurdish rebels & Turkish forces
- June 11, 1993, kidnapped a Tourism Ministry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