

# The Homegrown Threat

The Henry Jackson Society: Recent Research on Islamist Terrorism, Terrorist Attacks by The Islamic State and Student Fighters

## IN BRIEF

**Islamist Terrorism: Analysis of Offences and Attacks in the UK (1998-2015)** – a new 1000-page study from The Henry Jackson Society – identifies and profiles all Islamism-inspired terrorism convictions and suicide attacks in the UK between 1998 and 2015.

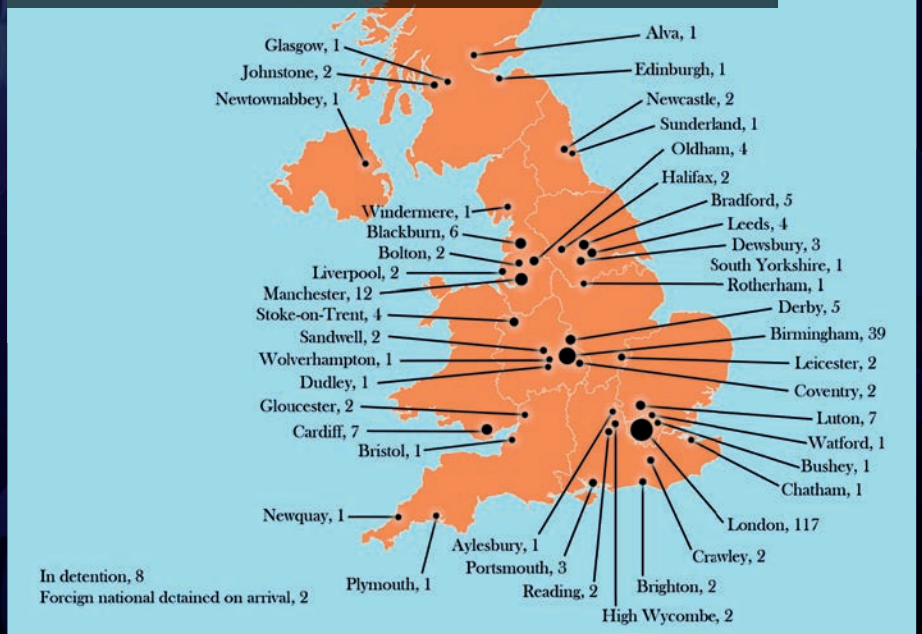
This major research project offers analysis of the changing nature of the threat to British national security. Statistical analysis include offenders' background information, types of offences, roles and targets as well as the prevalence of links to terrorist networks and travel for terrorist purposes, including training and combat experience.

There were 264 convictions as a result of arrests between 1998 and 2015 involving 253 British or foreign nationals as well as five suicides as a result of attacks on British soil – data relates to a base total of 269 individual offences collectively referred to as Islamism-related offences (IROs). Sources include court documentation, police and Crown Prosecution Service statements and news articles.

## Islamist Terrorism Analysis of Offences and Attacks In The UK (1998-2015)



## Place of residence at date of arrest



## Type of Terror Attack



Between 1998 and 2015 there were 99 attack-related IROs involving attacks, attempted and planned attacks (some of which included multiple types of attack):

- Bombing was the most commonly featured type of attack overall (74%), as well as for 1998–2010 offences (78%) and 2011–2015 offences (63%)
- Offences involving beheadings or stabbings (planned or otherwise) increased eleven-fold across the time periods (from 4% to 44%)



East London was home to half of London-based offenders (22% overall), the most common boroughs being Tower Hamlets, Newham and Waltham Forest

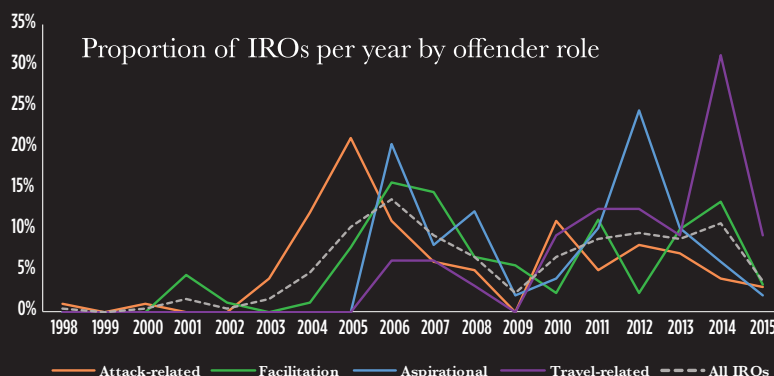


London- and Birmingham-based individuals are predominant among offenders

# THREAT FROM ISLAMISM-INSPIRED TERRORISM

## YEAR-ON-YEAR THREAT

The 269 Islamism-related offences (IROs) comprise 135 distinct terrorism cases. The rate of offending increased in the five-year period between 2011 and 2015 compared to the 13-year period between 1998 and 2010. IROs doubled in five years (increasing from an average of 12 to 23 per year) while distinct terrorism cases almost tripled (from five per year to 14 per year).



### ATTACK-RELATED

Individuals who committed, attempted or were planning attacks were responsible for 37% of IROs



### ASPIRATIONAL

Those whose plans were not advanced enough to pose an imminent threat or whose offences were limited in scope were responsible for 18% of IROs



### FACILITATION

Facilitators of terrorism or ideologues who encouraged terrorist acts were responsible for one-third (33%) of IROs



### TRAVEL-RELATED

Individuals whose offences related to travel (including attempted or planned) for terrorist purposes were responsible for 12% of IROs



## Quick notes on Islamism-inspired terrorism in the UK

Women's involvement in Islamism-inspired terrorism trebled in the five years between 2011 and 2015 – they accounted for just 4% of Islamism-related offences (IROs) between 1998 and 2010, but 11% between 2011 and 2015.

Offenders are getting younger – with more than half (56%) of all IROs being committed by individuals in their 20s.

There is little correlation between involvement in terrorism and educational achievement and employment status – a quarter (26%) of IROs were committed by individuals who had some form of higher education, while 38% were committed by those who were unemployed.

Offenders lived in neighbourhoods with both a higher than average relative deprivation and Muslim population – almost half (48%) of (English residence) IROs were committed by those living in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods nationally, referred to as “highly deprived”.

Offenders were more likely than the national Muslim average to be living in neighbourhoods where the Muslim proportion of the population was 20% or above (62% and 52% respectively).

Three-quarters of IROs were committed by individuals who were previously known to the authorities – almost half (48%) of IROs were committed by those who were already known to the Security Service, 38% had prior contact with the police, 13% engaged in extremism-related public activism and 9% had been stopped or detained in relation to (suspected) travel for terrorist purposes.

In 7% of IROs the offender re-engaged in criminal activities or foreign travel for terrorist purposes following their release from detention.

Almost half (44%) of individuals who committed IROs had known or suspected direct links to a proscribed terrorist organisation – of these, 56% were linked to the UK-based group al-Muhajiroun (25% overall), 24% were linked to al-Qaeda (10% overall) and 11% were linked to Islamic State (5% overall).

Over a quarter (28%) of IROs were demonstrably inspired by the rhetoric or propaganda of a proscribed terrorist organisation without being directed or linked to the group in any way.

One-quarter (25%) of IROs can be considered “serious attack-related offences” (actual, attempted or planned UK attacks intended to lead to indiscriminate and/or targeted deaths) – women were less commonly involved, offenders were typically younger, more commonly British (88%, compared to 66% for all other offences) and twice as likely to have received terrorist training (34% compared to 17%) than all other offences.

# British Terrorist Attacks

Kyle Orton

## by the Islamic State

2007-2017.....

**30th June 2007**

Glasgow—two terrorist inspired by IS drove a vehicle into Glasgow airport, an attack intended to be a suicide mission.

**25th September 2014**

Thwarted attack in London – a plot to carry out (at least one) murder against a policeman or serviceman by the chairman of the Islamic society at King's College in London, was networked through IS.

**6th November 2014**

Thwarted attack in London – a Pakistani man was arrested days before a planned stabbing attack.

**28th May 2015**

Thwarted attack in Reading – an extremist couple planned on suicide bombing a public area, but were caught due to posts on twitter connected to the husband's account.

**14th July 2015**

Thwarted attack in Luton – two extremists were planning on travelling to IS held territory in Syria however were directed to attack American soldiers station in Britain, planned attack was guided by IS.

**5th December 2015**

London – an extremist attacked people in Leytonstone tube station at random in response to Parliament voting to extend airstrikes on IS held territory in Syria, and was inspired by IS.

**18th February 2016**

Rochdale – a Bangladeshi national was bludgeoned to death by two IS sympathizers in retaliation for his practice of ruqya (Islamic healing) considered by IS to be black magic, and after the attack one of the attackers fled to Syria.

**8th September 2016**

Thwarted attack in London – two brothers were arrested before they were able to carry out a Paris style attack on London.

**22nd March 2017**

Khalid Masood (formerly Adrian Ajao) killed five people and injured fifty in a vehicle ramming and knife attack outside Parliament. Masood was shot dead during the attack, which was claimed by the Islamic State. To date no concrete evidence has emerged of a co-conspirator, though Masood did travel to Birmingham where there is a known IS facilitator operating.

**22nd May 2017**

Salman Abedi detonated a bomb at Manchester Arena during a concert by Ariana Grande, which killed him and massacred twenty-two people. Around sixty people were injured. IS claimed the attack and though it appears Abedi built the explosive device himself; the investigation continues into possible associates.

**3rd June 2017**

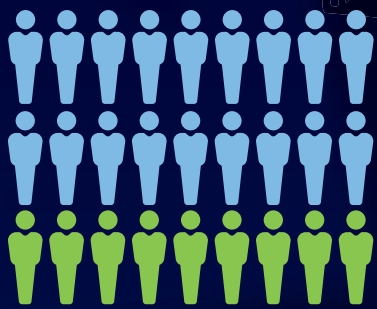
Three men – Khuram Butt, Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba – executed a vehicle ramming and knife attack on London Bridge and nearby restaurants, murdering eight people and wounding thirty. The attackers wore fake suicide vests; all were shot dead at the scene. IS claimed the attack quickly. The extent of their connections with IS is as yet unclear but the naming of the three men suggests it had advance notice of this attack.

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# Spotting the Signs: Identifying Vulnerability to Radicalisation Among Students

Emma Webb

## Socialisation into terrorism



18/29

Part of a friendship group connected to extremism.



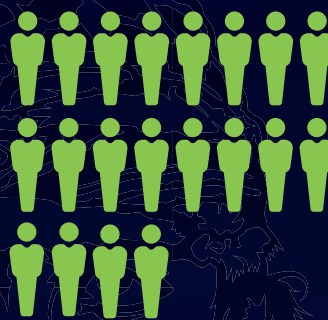
9/29

Had a connection with a mosque or imam suggested as one of the sources of their radicalisation, or had attended a mosque attended by other extremists.



11/29

Had a family member involved in extremism.



10/29

Showed a sudden expression of extreme political opinion.



14/29

Showed the appearance of behaviour associated with increasing religious observance.



The Henry Jackson Society is a think tank and policy-shaping force that fights for the principles and alliances which keep societies free – working across borders and party lines to combat extremism, advance democracy and real human rights, and make a stand in an increasingly uncertain world. henry jackson society research and events provide key analysis and insight to policy-makers and the media.

## CRT

Centre for the Response to  
Radicalisation and Terrorism  
At The Henry Jackson Society

The Centre for the Response to Radicalisation and Terrorism (CRT) is unique in addressing violent and non-violent extremism. By coupling high-quality, in-depth research with targeted and impactful policy recommendations, we aim to combat the threat of Islamism in our society.

CRT research and events provide policy relevant analysis to decision-makers and the media. Recent work includes...

### Reports:

- Islamist Terrorism: Analysis of Offences and Attacks in the UK (1998-2015)
- Disrupting Extremists: More Effective Use of Existing Legislation
- British Jihadists: Preventing Travel Abroad and Stopping Attacks at Home
- Islamist Terrorism: The British Connections
- Foreign Terrorist Attacks By The Islamic State, 2002-2016