



Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands

July 2016, number 42

The terrorist threat level is currently at 'substantial', level 4 on a scale of 5. That means the chance of an attack in the Netherlands is real but that there are no specific indications that terrorists are preparing to carry out an attack in the Netherlands. The threat to Europe is primarily jihadist in nature, as demonstrated by recent ISIS attacks in Paris, Brussels and Istanbul. Terrorist organisations like ISIS and al Qa'ida are probably planning more attacks in European countries. The threat posed by lone terrorists is clear from a number of recent attacks in Western countries committed by jihadists and right-wing extremists. There is an increased risk of the use of violence by both the far-right and the far-left in the Netherlands.

Threat level

4

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5



The threat of an attack

There is a real chance of an attack being carried out in the Netherlands. Fresh attacks could take place in European countries in the near future. There are no specific indications that terrorist networks are actually preparing to carry out an attack in the Netherlands.



The Netherlands' profile

All of the countries involved in the anti-ISIS coalition are potential targets for terrorists. While the coalition is intended to reduce the threat posed by ISIS in the long-term, the Netherlands has raised its profile by taking part in it. However, jihadists already viewed the Netherlands as an enemy prior to its participation in the coalition.



Terrorist activities

Networks of sympathisers and non-jihadist criminals in the Netherlands and other European countries could play a role in the terrorist activities carried out by jihadists. These types of networks are not deterred by national borders.



Jihadist travellers (Cumulative since 2012)

Current figure Previous DTN

260

240

In total, around 260 people have travelled to Syria and Iraq for jihadist purposes since 2012. Since the start of 2016, fewer people have been departing each month. Jihadists on their way to Europa make use of refugee flows in order to enter Europe clandestinely.



Attacks in the West

ISIS carried out major attacks in Brussels in March 2016. An attack in Istanbul, in June, was likely the work of ISIS. Dozens of ISIS operatives are probably in Europe or on their way there, to Europe, possibly for the purpose of preparing or carrying out attacks.



Extremism

The growing polarisation in Europe can also create a breeding ground for radicalisation and extremism. Right-wing extremists also carry out attacks in Europe. Both the far left and the far right could perpetrate violence in the Netherlands.

About the Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands

This factsheet is an integral part of the 42nd edition of the Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands (DTN42), published on 11 July 2016. The DTN is a periodic analysis of the terrorist threat to the Netherlands. This threat is expressed on a scale from 1 to 5. The DTN is compiled by the National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV).

More information can be found on www.nctv.nl.