



Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands

November 2016, number 43

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 the Netherlands is still primarily jihadist in nature. In the current polarised climate with regard to Islam, asylum seekers, integration, the EU and Turkey, there is also a chance that acts of violence could be committed by either the far right or far left. It is conceivable that the level of polarisation in the Netherlands could increase between now and the parliamentary elections in March 2017.

Threat level

4

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5



The threat of an attack

ISIS is determined to carry out new attacks in Western Europe especially now that it is under pressure militarily in the Middle East and North Africa. There is a real chance of an attack being carried out in the Netherlands.



Returnees

Jihadists returning from Syria and Iraq may pose a threat to the Netherlands. If the ISIS 'caliphate' collapses, the number of returnees is expected to rise, and some of them will probably end up bolstering the jihadist movement in the Netherlands.



Terrorist activities

International terrorist networks are active on Dutch soil, as confirmed by the arrest of an ISIS operative in Rotterdam in March 2016 and three related arrests in July 2016.



Jihadist travellers (Cumulative since 2012)

Current figure	Previous DTN
270	260

In total, around 270 Dutch jihadists have travelled to Syria and Iraq. Some of them have been killed (44) or returned (around 40). Since the start of 2016, fewer people have been departing each month. Around 190 Dutch jihadists remain in Syria and Iraq.



Attacks in the West

Lone attackers continue to pose a threat as confirmed by a series of attacks in European countries in the summer of 2016. Several attackers acted alone but also received a certain amount of 'coaching' from ISIS.

Dozens of ISIS operatives are probably still in Europe.



Extremism

In October five men were convicted for a terrorist attack against a mosque in the city of Enschede.

In the current polarised climate both the far left and the far right could perpetrate violence in the Netherlands. The level of polarisation in the Netherlands could increase between now and the parliamentary elections in March 2017.

About the Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands

This factsheet is an integral part of the 43rd edition of the Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands (DTN43), published on 14 November 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.