The threat of an attack

The chance of an attack in the Netherlands is real. There are no specific indications of preparatory acts.

Various actors (terrorist organisations like ISIS and al Qa'ida, transnational networks, small cells and lone actor terrorists) are potentially able to carry out both small- and large-scale attacks in the West. Jihadist attacks, like those in London and Berlin recently, can also happen in the Netherlands.

Travellers and returnees

Jihadist travellers: 280 (since 2012) In ISIS-territory: 190 Returned: 50

There are still jihadist travellers in Syria and Iraq, but fewer than before, mainly due to the difficulty of reaching the region. There are currently 190 people in ISIS territory. If they return they will pose a risk. For the time being, Dutch ISIS members seem to be returning gradually and not en masse.







Current threat level: Substantial

1 2 3 4 5

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Attacks in the West

Despite military setbacks, ISIS is still capable of directing attacks from Syria and Iraq.

New attacks were prevented in Germany and France. The attacks at a Christmas market in Berlin (Dec '16) and at the Houses of Parliament in London (March '17) were claimed by ISIS. The attack on a mosque in Quebec (Jan '17) again illustrates the threat posed by extreme right-wing terrorism.

Resources for attacks

There are concerns that, inspired by ISIS members in Syria and Iraq, jihadists in the West may use drones to carry out attacks.

Terrorists don't need special weapons to carry out attacks. They can even do so with cars (London, March 2017) or lorries (Berlin, December 2016).

Networks and attackers

Nearly all lone attackers in the West were in touch with a network.

Of the 22 jihadist attacks in 2016, 19 were committed by individual attackers. Contact with networks ranges from ISIS-directed operatives to individuals inspired by ISIS online.



The DTN is a periodic analysis of the terrorist threat in the Netherlands.

More information on www.nctv.nl



Extremism

Both left-wing and right-wing extermists are active in the Netherlands.

Right-wing extremists commit unlawful acts against Islamic targets, asylum seekers and minorities. Left-wing extremists target what they regard as the far right, as well as the police and those implementing asylum policy.