The threat of an attack

The chance of an attack in the Netherlands is still real. The main threat is posed by jihadism.

ISIS forms the biggest threat but there is an increasing threat from al Qa'ida. Jihadists consider all countries involved in the anti-ISIS coalition to be targets. There are no specific indications of preparatory acts. The Dutch jihadist movement consists of a few hundred individuals.





National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism Ministry of Security and Justice

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Travellers and returnees

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

During the period under review no new cases emerged of individuals leaving the Netherlands for jihadist purposes. In Europe, relatively few returnees have been involved in carrying out attacks. They still pose a threat, however.

Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands (DTN)

Current threat level: Substantial



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Networks and attackers

The threat is multifaceted and not all attacks are preventable.

Home-grown jihadists in the Netherlands tend to be loosely organised, often comprising groups of friends or relatives. The threat of women carrying out attacks in Europe – both on the orders of ISIS and on their own initiative – appears to be increasing.



The DTN is a periodic analysis of the terrorist threat in the Netherlands. More information on **www.nctv.nl**

Attacks in the West

Most jihadist attacks are linked to ISIS.

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There are three ways this can occur: 1) attacks can be coordinated by ISIS's external attack unit; 2) attacks can be inspired by jihadist propaganda; or 3) attackers can be 'coached' by terrorists with links to ISIS abroad. So far, the attacks that have taken place in 2017 appear to be either inspired or coached.

Resources for attacks

ISIS is using drones to carry out attacks in Iraq and Syria. But not yet in the West.

In the West, terrorists are using relatively simple resources such as vans, lorries or knives. Sometimes arrests have led to the discovery of weapons or explosives.

Salafism and polarisation

The growing influence of Salafism continues to be a cause for concern due to the intolerance shown by some of its adherents.

The political situation in Turkey and Morocco is causing social tensions and polarisation.