

Terrorist Threat Assessment for

the Netherlands

December 2023

National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security Ministry of Justice and Security

Threat level raised to 4 (substantial) on a scale of 1 to 5. The chance of an attack is real.

The likelihood of an attack against the Netherlands has risen to such a degree that the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV) has raised the threat level from 3 to 4. The renewed conflict in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, acts of desecration to the Koran in various European countries and calls for attacks by terrorist organisations have led to an increase in the threat posed by jihadism.

Attacks more likely. The terrorist threat is greater than in previous years.

An increased terrorist threat was first identified in the previous Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands (DTN). This heightened threat is demonstrated by attacks in other European countries and a number of arrests of suspects who intended to carry out an attack with jihadist motives. It is conceivable that Dutch jihadists or other radical Islamists will engage in violence. In addition, the threat posed by right-wing extremism and anti-institutional extremism remains undiminished.

Jihadist threat to Europe.

ISIS networks continue to pose a threat.

Earlier this year jihadist organisations were preparing to carry out terrorist attacks in Europe. Arrests in various countries, including the Netherlands, are likely to have prevented attacks in 2023. These arrests decreased the short-term threat posed by transnational terrorist networks, but this threat remains greater than in previous years.

Right-wing terrorism. The terrorist threat posed by accelerationists remains undiminished.

It remains possible that a minor or young adult who has become radicalised within the right-wing extremist online milieu will use violence. Not all of these young people will become radicalised to the point of engaging in violence solely on the basis of an ideology like Nazism, but some of them are in search of an ideology that is consistent with their existing fantasies of violence.

Online radicalisation. An evolving threat due to online radicalisation.

Extremists are focusing more on the online dimension, which occupies an increasingly prominent place in people's daily lives, and as a result, the radicalisation of young jihadists and right-wing extremists is now largely occurring online. Extremists use the internet to spread propaganda, form networks and find new contacts. Online hate against Jews and LGBTIQ+ people is also on the rise in the Netherlands.

Anti-institutional extremism. A small minority is prepared to use violence.

The anti-institutional movement in general and self-proclaimed sovereign citizens do not pose a violent threat. However, small minorities are pondering the question of when violence is justified or are even making preparations for a violent confrontation with the government.

This document summarises the main findings of the Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands 2023. For more information, visit <u>www.nctv.nl</u>.

