

# Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Making Headlines Today -  
Foreign Fighters

# Why it's making Headlines today?

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- Syrian Uprising
- 81 countries joined this civil war in 2014



# Foreign Fighters

- By Malet “non-citizens of conflict states who join insurgencies during civil war”

Spanish Civil  
war 1936-1939

Invasion of  
Finland 1939

Afghanistan war  
1979-1989

Bosnian war  
1992-1995

331 civil conflicts  
where over 70  
ones with  
foreign fighters

# What do we know about foreign fighters?

We know that

- Foreign fighters have ideological reasons
- They are organized
- They are mainly young men

We know little

## Worries on the individual level

- Further radicalisation
- Combat training and experience
- Professional international jihadi networks
- Being sent home to stage an attack
- Propaganda and recruitment
- Traumatized individuals (PTSS)

- About terrorism
- On re-education and counterterrorism program
- On orphans

# Foreign Fighters in Syria. Who are they and why do they go there?

- 12000 fighters
- 60-70 % are from the Middle East
- 20-25 % are from European or Western countries
- In case of EU they are mostly nationals
- Many ethnic background
- Relatively many converts
- Mainly young men



## Foreign fighters - numbers

- Peter Neumann (ICSR - 2014)

3,000	Tunisia
1,200 - 2,500	Saudi Arabia
1,500	Morocco and Jordan
700	France
500	Britain
400	Germany
300	Belgium
130	The Netherlands
100	United States



# Why do people want to leave Europe FOR SYRIA???

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## Pull factors

## Push factors

- ◉ Purpose in life/do smth good , somehow help people
- ◉ Religious motivation as their duty
- ◉ Comradeship
- ◉ Experience smth exciting by committing attacks and inflicting pain
- ◉ Personal problems
- ◉ Troubles with authorities
- ◉ Socio-economic and political climate ( discrimination as well)

# Fighting groups in Syria

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- ◉ Between 75000 and 115000 rebels fighting in Syria
- ◉ Free Syrian Army
- ◉ Jabhat al-Nusra
- ◉ Islamic State

# Free Syrian Army

- It was founded in 2011 by defectors from Assad regime
- Secular outlook
- International support
- Its goal is to bring down regime





# Jabhat al-Nusra

- The Support Front for the People of Sham 2012
- Linked to AL-Qaeda
- Fighting the Assad regime on religious/ideological base
- They want to create an Islamic state in Syria and a caliphate in the Levant



Logo of Jabhat al-Nusra, featuring the Arabic text "الْجَبَّةُ النَّصْرَاءُ" (Jabhat al-Nusra) in large, stylized white script on a black background, with "جَبَّةُ النَّصْرَةِ" (Jabhat al-Nusra) in smaller script below it.

# Islamic State

لا إله إلا الله



## Islamic State

- Tried to merge with Jabhat al-Nusra
- Goal: Establish an Islamic caliphate
- Fighting Assad, Iraqi forces and other groups in region
- Many atrocities
- Challenge to Al Qaeda and countries in the region
- Fighting against international coalition



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi



- Transnational Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group
- Controls large swathes of territory
- Delivers some social services
- Many foreign fighters, also local fighters
- Global outreach by propaganda

# What people joined these organizations do there?

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- ◉ Waiting for actions
- ◉ Trainings
- ◉ Guard duties
- ◉ Actual fighting
- ◉ War crimes ( suicide is also a part of this point)
- ◉ Propaganda ( including MONEY DONATION on terror attacks)

# Foreign fighters. Are they a threat?

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- Germany's Minister of the Interior feared that Syrian Jihadist veterans returning to Europe, after being trained in «deadly handwork», will be «ticking time bombs»



# Threat posed abroad

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- ◉ Financing the Jihadi, propaganda
- ◉ Further radicalization , intimidation and acceptance of violence
- ◉ Aggression against infidels
- ◉ Polarization within society



# Policy options

## UN strategy





# I.Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

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- 1. To promote dialogue and tolerance and prevent defamation of religion , religious values, beliefs and cultures
- 2. To ensure the realization of the development goals ( the Millennium Development Goals)
- 3. To scale up cooperation and assistance in the fields of rule of law, human rights

## II. Measures to prevent and combat terrorism

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- 1. Refrain from facilitating and financing or tolerating terrorist activities
- 2. To ensure that territories are not used for terrorist training camps or the preparation of terrorist acts
- 3. To ensure the apprehension and prosecution or extradition of perpetrators of terrorist acts
- 4. To combat illicit arms trade

# Measures to build states' capacity and strengthen UN role

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- 1. To contribute to capacity building programs in the area of port and civil aviation security
- 2. To encourage frequent exchanges of information and technical assistance among bodies dealing with counterterrorism
- 3. To cooperate with other organizations such as the world Bank and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime

# Measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law

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- 1. Effective counterterrorism measures and protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually enforcing
- 2. Counterterrorism measures need to comply with international law
- 3. perpetrators need to be «brought to justice»