

JIHAD 2016: AN OVERVIEW

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(www.rieas.gr) Publication date: 27 March 2016

Only three months into the year, no less than 27 countries across the globe have come under jihadi attack. Mujahideen belonging to organizations or acting as lone wolves have carried out attacks across six continents and regions: Europe, North and South America, Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia. Only yesterday, Pakistan suffered its third attack of the year as a Taliban suicide bomber detonated himself near the children's swings at Gulshan Iqbal Park, where Lahore's Christian community was celebrating Easter Sunday. At least 65 people were killed, mostly women and children, while at approximately 300 people were wounded.

A new chapter in a very old war, today in Europe, the enemy is no longer at the Gates of Vienna under the banner of the Ottoman Caliphate, the enemy is already within the gates. Our enemies have long been within it, having been groomed unencumbered for decades in mosques and Islamic schools around Europe sponsored by countries like Qatar and Saudi Arabia -as our politicians and civic society turned a blind eye to the religious fascism festering in their midst. To this Trojan Horse.

In Belgium, the settlement of Muslim Salafists from Saudi Arabia in the 1970s and of Muslim Brotherhood adherents during the 1980s and 1990s created a den of Islamic extremism - the horrifying and embittering results of which we saw yesterday. But it's not only in Belgium. In Britain, in Scandinavia, in France, in Spain, in Germany -countries across Europe host these dens of religious fascism.

Meantime outside of Europe, the regimes of Qatar, Turkey and Saudi Arabia have been arming and financing their mujahideen proxies to take over Libya, which is right across Europe on the Mediterranean and Syria. These mujahideen have exploited the flow of refugees fleeing their barbarism to smuggle fighters back into Europe. At this moment, according to a French Interior Ministry report, there are 90 fighters ready to become suicide bombers roaming around Europe. According to an IS operative, approx. 4,000 Islamic State fighters have already smuggled themselves into Europe.

Today, the war they fight is asymmetric, urban, and globalized yet the objective since 1683 remains the same: expand the "Caliphate" -either 'by the pen or by the sword.' The tactics have changed, the objective has not.

The jihadists are playing a long game -that is something Europeans must understand. And they will continue to advance until their cancerous and malignant ideology that weaponizes people into becoming mass murderers and oppressors is defeated. The question remains whether the Europeans of today have the intellectual tools and strength of will to fight against this ideology and protect their values and way of life that their ancestors have fought so hard for.

Here is a list of countries that have come under attack in 2016 alone:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Belgium
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Canada
Cote D'Ivoire
Chad
Egypt
France
India
Indonesia
Israel
Iraq
Libya
Mali
Nigeria
Pakistan
Philippines
Russia
Syria
Saudi Arabia
Somalia
Thailand
Turkey
Uruguay
Yemen

No doubt it is only a matter of time before Denmark and Sweden, with their own dens of Islamic extremism, will join this long and tragic list.