

Key

Frequency of attacks:
 >1 Day >1 Week >1 Month >1 Quarter >1 Year

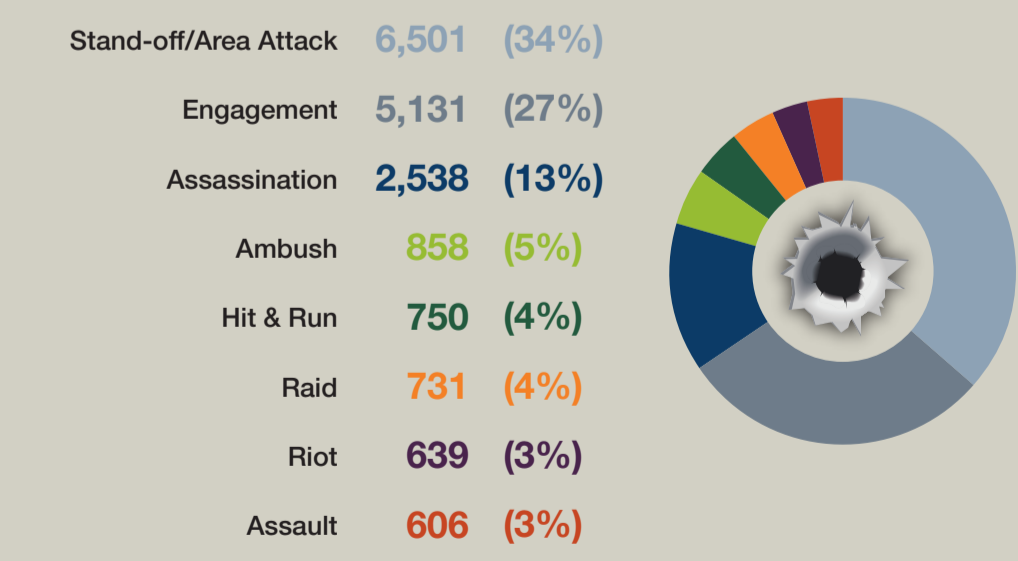
Country total attacks total non-militant fatalities

ATTACKS BY GROUP – TOP 10

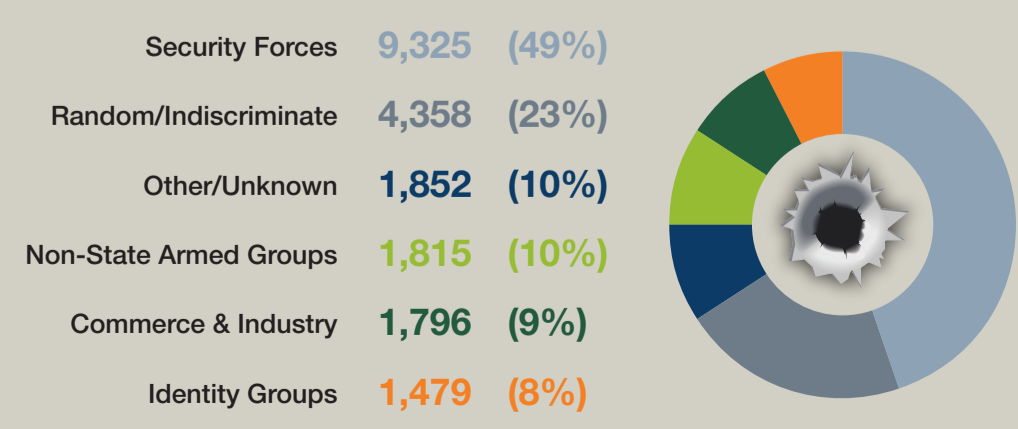
- ISLAMIC STATE**
 Scope: Transnational Orientation: Sunni Islamic Objective: Revolutionary
 A total of 3,317 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, the Islamic State in open sources in 2015 – more than six times the total of any other group – consolidating the group's position as the most prolific and predominant non-state armed group worldwide. The number of attacks increased by more than 50% from 2014, marking an intensification of the group's operations in Iraq and Syria – which accounted for 92% of its attacks – but also the increasing regional spread of the group. Attacks by the Islamic State, its official affiliates, and its supporters, were recorded in 28 countries worldwide in 2015, with Libya, Afghanistan, and Egypt the most notable other areas of operation.
- JABHAT AL-NUSRA**
 Scope: Domestic Orientation: Sunni Islamic Objective: Revolutionary
 A total of 551 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, Jabhat al-Nusra, in open sources in 2015. For the second year running this made Jabhat al-Nusra the second most active group recorded worldwide, although the number of attacks increased only slightly from 2014. As with the Islamic State, the total number of Jabhat al-Nusra attacks across the year was likely far higher than could be definitively attributed to it, with the group heavily involved in fighting against the Syrian government and its non-state allies, principally as a leading member of militant Islamist coalition Jaish al-Fatah, which made notable territorial gains in the northwest of the country.
- DONETSK PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (DPR)**
 Scope: Local Orientation: Ethnocultural Objective: Separatist
 In Ukraine a total of 526 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, the pro-Russia separatist Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) in open sources in 2015. This made the DPR the third most active group recorded worldwide, reflecting the intensification of the separatist conflict in the east of the country, centred on the oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk, with the recorded number of attacks by the forces operating as part of the DPR doubling from 2014. While the agreement of a ceasefire in February resulted in a low operational tempo across early 2015, a steady tempo of attacks persisted from April onwards, with a notable spike in violence in November.
- TALIBAN**
 Scope: Domestic Orientation: Sunni Islamic Objective: Revolutionary
 In Afghanistan, a total of 502 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, the Taliban in open sources in 2015. This made the Taliban the fourth most active group recorded worldwide, with the recorded number of Taliban operations increasing by almost 10% at a time when overall levels of violence in Afghanistan fell slightly. Across the year the Taliban increased its territorial holdings in rural areas alongside growing attempts to take and hold district centres. Significantly, the group briefly seized control of Kunduz city in late September, underlining both its growing capabilities and the inability of the Afghan state to adequately defend territory without substantial NATO assistance, as shown in Helmand in December.
- COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA – MAOIST (CPI-M)**
 Scope: Domestic Orientation: Marxist/Maoist Objective: Revolutionary
 In India, a total of 337 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, the Communist Party of India – Maoist (CPI-M) in open sources in 2015. This made the CPI-M the fifth most active group recorded worldwide, albeit a decrease from fourth in 2014, and a slight decrease in the recorded number of attacks. This decrease was part of a wider decrease in the level of violence in India by more than 20%. While the group's operational tempo decreased slightly in early 2015 in response to growing counter-terrorism operations, the level of violence increased thereafter, in spite of a spike in counter-terrorism activity in July, although operations remained typically low-intensity.

- ANSAR ALLAH**
 Scope: Local Orientation: Ethnocultural Objective: Political
 In Yemen, a total of 285 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, Ansar Allah in open sources in 2015. This made Ansar Allah – popularly known as the Houthis and previously named Al-Shabab al-Muminin – the sixth most active group recorded worldwide, an increase from tenth in 2014 with the recorded number of attacks more than doubling. Following Ansar Allah's seizure of Sanaa in September 2014, further advances south into Aden prompted a military intervention by a Saudi-led coalition in March and the beginning of a wider civil conflict that continues to rage. Ansar Allah has focused its operations on security forces and tribal militiamen loyal to the overthrown government.
- LUHANSK PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (LPR)**
 Scope: Local Orientation: Ethnocultural Objective: Separatist
 In Ukraine a total of 268 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, the pro-Russia separatist Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) in open sources in 2015. This made the LPR the seventh most active group recorded worldwide. Although the LPR's operational tempo was half that of the neighbouring DPR, the organisation's forces maintained a fairly steady tempo across the course of 2015 following the breakdown of the February 2015 ceasefire. As with the DPR, attacks by LPR forces were characterised by small-arms and mortar/artillery fire targeting military forces on frontlines across Luhansk oblast, with a notable spike in such operations in August.
- BOKO HARAM**
 Scope: Domestic Orientation: Sunni Islamic Objective: Revolutionary
 A total of 260 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, Boko Haram in open sources in 2015, predominantly conducted in Nigeria alongside a more sporadic tempo of attacks in the neighbouring countries of Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. This made Boko Haram the eighth most active group recorded worldwide, with an almost 50% increase in the number of attacks from 2014. Despite suffering the loss of all territorial holdings and enduring growing military pressure from multinational forces, in 2015 Boko Haram became an official Islamic State affiliate and intensified operations in the northeast of Nigeria and launched repeated punitive cross-border operations – frequently utilising young, female suicide bombers.
- PARTIYA KARKERËN KURDISTAN (PKK)**
 Scope: Domestic Orientation: Ethnocultural Objective: Reformist
 In Turkey, a total of 246 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, Kurdish militant group the Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan (PKK) in open sources in 2015. This made the PKK the ninth most active group recorded worldwide. This represented a substantial increase from the just 43 PKK attacks recorded in 2014 due to the peace process between the PKK and Ankara that continued through 2014 and into early-to-mid 2015, before collapsing in July. There was a surge in guerrilla operations by the PKK thereafter, peaking in August. While the PKK declared a month-long unilateral ceasefire during elections in October, violence resumed thereafter and continued at a steady tempo.
- HARAKAT AL-SHABAAB AL-MUJAHIDEEN**
 Scope: Transnational Orientation: Sunni Islamic Objective: Revolutionary
 In Somalia and neighbouring countries, a total of 236 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen in open sources in 2015. This made Al-Shabaab the tenth most active group recorded worldwide, with only a negligible increase in the group's operational tempo from 2014. While Al-Shabaab maintained asymmetric operations across the year against domestic security forces and AMISOM peacekeepers, the group also periodically assaulted and retook control of towns in its key areas of operation, as well as overrunning several military bases, most notably killing at least 50 Burundian peacekeepers in an assault on their base in June.

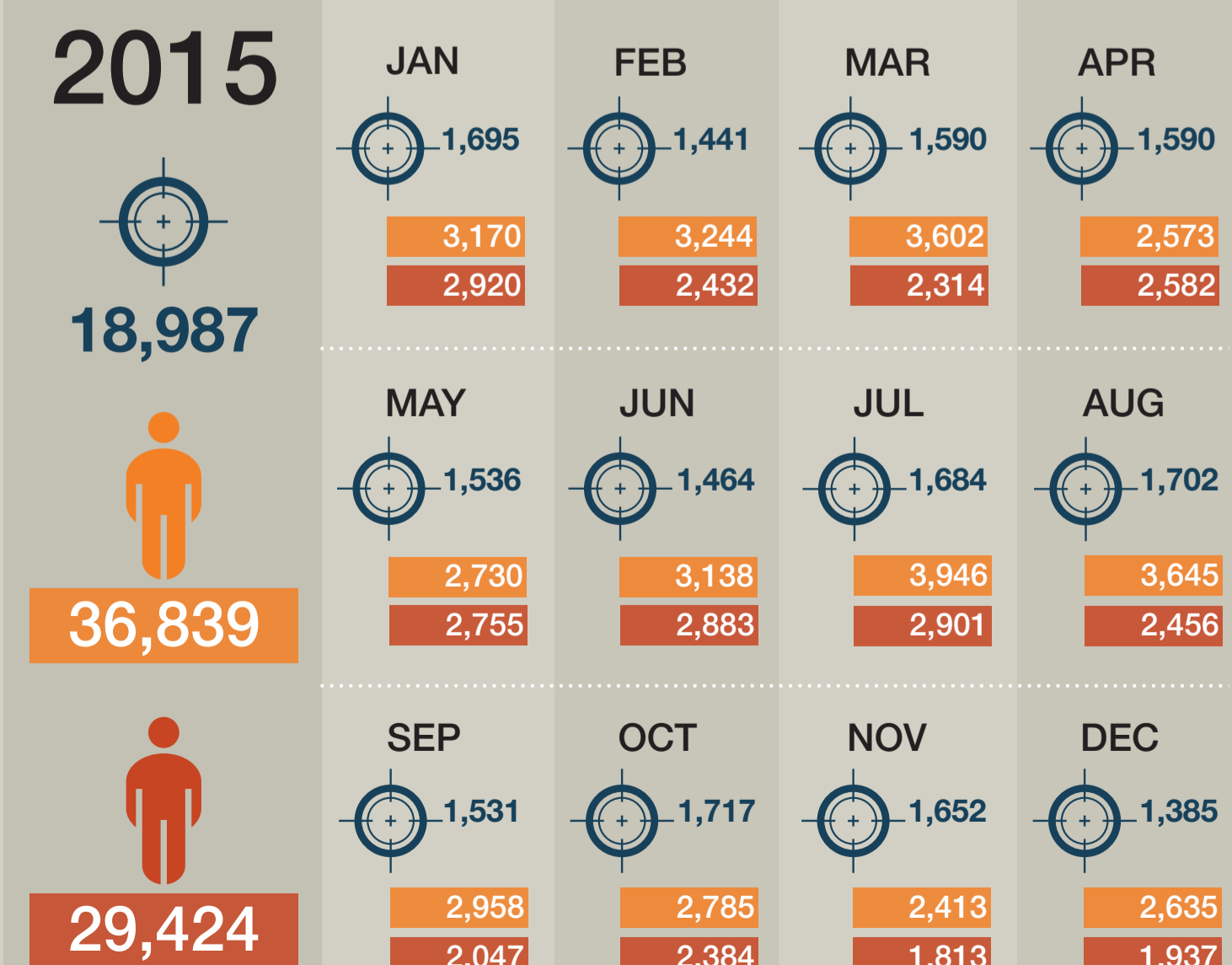
PRIMARY TACTICS 2015



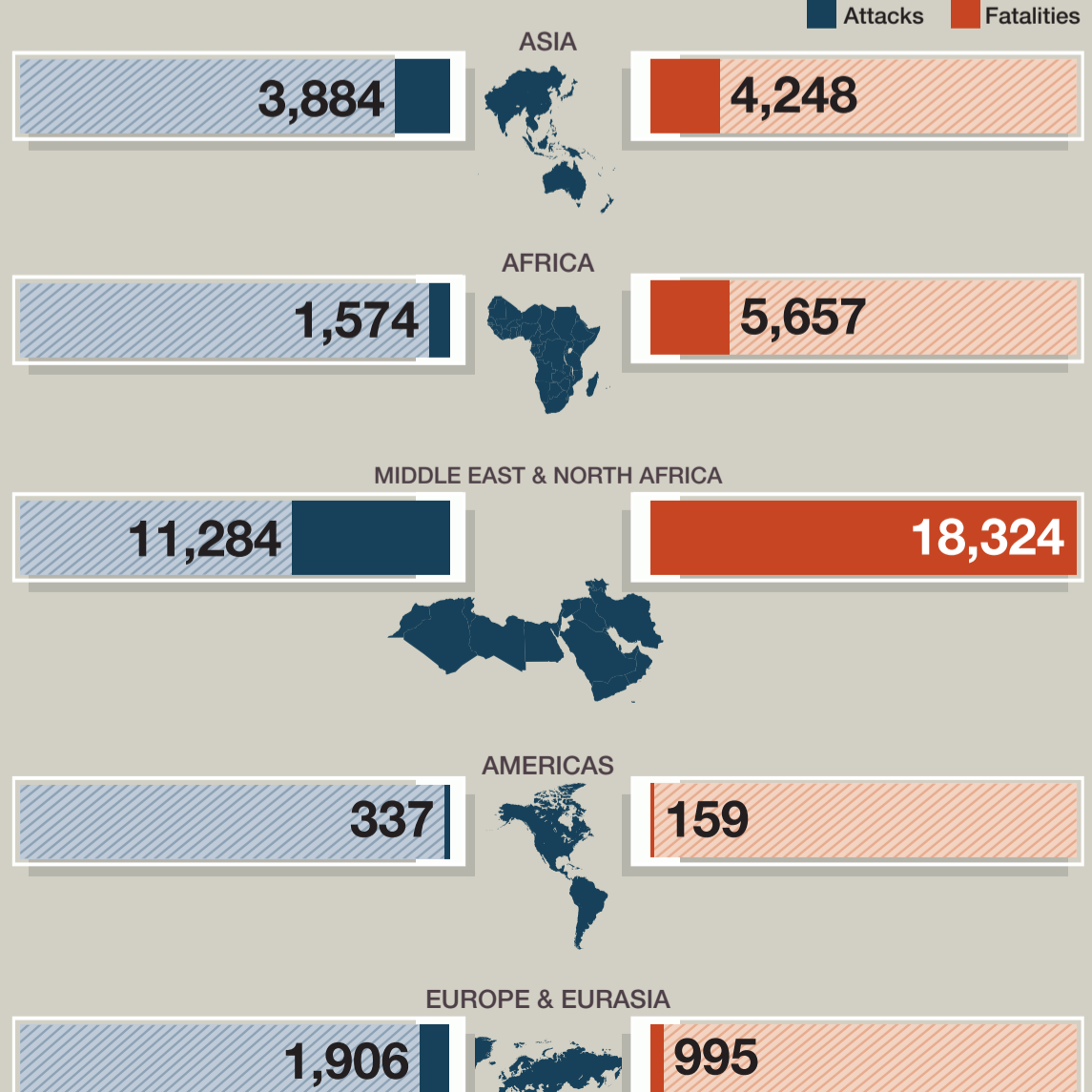
PRIMARY TARGETS 2015



ATTACKS AND NON-MILITANT CASUALTIES



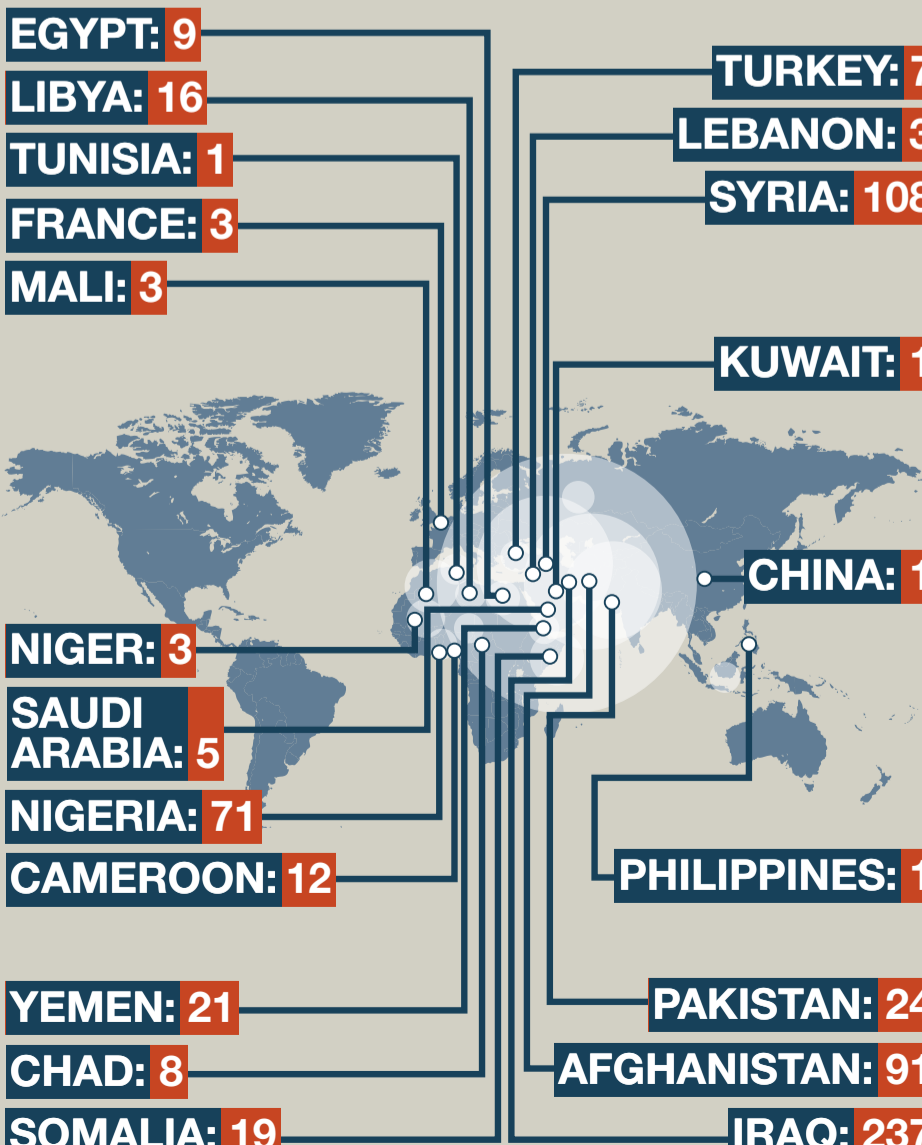
ATTACKS AND NON-MILITANT FATALITIES BY REGION



ATTACKS BY COUNTRY – TOP 10



SUICIDE ATTACKS BY COUNTRY



MILITANT FATALITIES

