







Russia is in shock after 14 people died in a terror attack on the St Petersburg metro system on Monday. Russia is no stranger to terrorist attacks and the metro has been a regular target. The last bomb hit the Park Kultury station in central Moscow in 2010, when 36 were killed and twice that number injured, but this was the first terror attack on the northern capital.

The tragedy in St Petersburg opens a new dimension for terrorism in Russia. The perpetrator is reportedly an ethnic Kyrgyz who is believed to have ties to Islamic State (IS). Previous terror attacks in Russia were by Chechen separatists, but since the appointment of strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, unrest in Chechnya has been quelled. Now it is being replaced by international Islamic terror; Central Asia has become the largest recruiting ground for IS outside the Arab world.

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Ben Aris, Editor-in-Chief

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