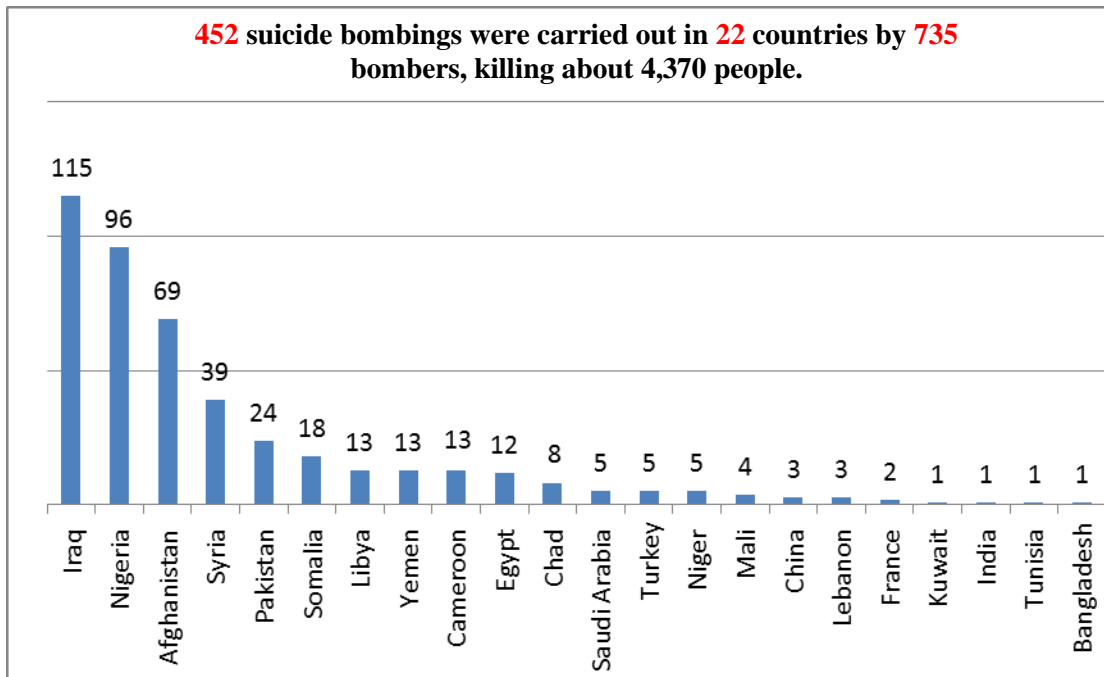


Suicide Bombings by Countries in 2015

452 suicide bombings were carried out in **22** countries by **735** bombers, killing about 4,370 people.



Internal Analysis of Countries

Iraq

- About 115 suicide bombings were carried out in Iraq in 2015 by 218 perpetrators compared with about 271 in 2014 (156 fewer bombings – 57% decrease). About 1,180 people were killed in these bombings.
- About 82 suicide bombings (71%) were aimed against security and military targets: attacks against these targets were carried out at security checkpoints; Iraqi army bases, police buildings, military buildings, and soldiers on duty (for example, when a suicide bomber attacked a military convoy, or during fighting between the Islamic State and the Iraqi security forces).
- About 19 suicide bombings (17%) were aimed against civilian targets: these attacks were carried out at restaurants, hotels, bus stations, marketplaces, and important urban sites.
- About 20 suicide bombings (17%) were carried out against the Shiite population: about 12 were carried out at Shiite mosques and religious meetings, and about eight attacks were carried out at Shiite militia security checkpoints.
- About five suicide bombings (4%) were carried out against the Kurdish population: these attacks were carried out both in areas with Kurdish population centers, and against the Kurdish Peshmerga militia.
- About 12 of all the suicide bombings in Iraq (10%) were part of a combined offensive in which armed soldiers also took part. One attack was carried out against a government building, and the rest (about 11) were carried out against the Iraq security forces.
- The Islamic State, to which all the suicide bombings carried out in Iraq are attributed, took responsibility for about 41 bombings (about 36%).

The substantial drop in the number of bombings in Iraq can be attributed to the effective cooperation between the coalition against the Islamic State and the Iraqi security forces and their allies: the Shiite militias and the Kurdish Peshmerga forces. For example, in the past year, the Islamic State lost strategic territories in Iraq, and its hold in the country was weakened. The main territory lost by the Islamic State was in Tikrit, liberated in March 2015, and Ramadi, liberated in December 2015.

Given the advance of the Iraqi forces and the increased bombings by the coalition, the Islamic State had difficulty in executing terrorist attacks. The fall in the number of suicide bombings can be explained by these factors, although it should be noted that the number of terrorist attacks carried out in Iraq remains high.

Nigeria

- About 96 suicide bombings were carried out in Nigeria in 2015 by 156 male and female perpetrators, compared with about 32 in 2014 (an increase of about 64 suicide bombings – 200%). About 990 people were killed in these attacks.
- About 53 suicide bombings (roughly 55%) were carried out against civilian targets: these attacks were carried out in markets, villages, bus stations, city centers, and hospitals.
- About 23 suicide bombings (24%) were carried out against security targets: these attacks were carried out at security checkpoints, military bases, and against the Nigerian security forces.
- About 21 suicide bombings (22%) were carried out against religious targets: 16 of these attacks were carried out at mosques, two attacks were carried out in churches, and one attack was carried out against the Shiite population.
- About 50 suicide bombings (52%) were carried out in Nigeria by 87 women. 560 people were killed in these attacks.

The oath of allegiance to the Islamic State system of alliances by the Boko Haram organization in March 2015 contributed to the dramatic increase in the number of suicide bombings in Nigeria. In addition, the rise in the number of attacks can be explained by the beginning of the military offensive by Nigeria and countries in the region against Boko Haram in February 2015 and the election of Nigerian president of Muhammadu Buhari, who made defeating the organization his objective.

Given Boko Haram's loss of territorial control in Nigeria, the organization has adopted a terrorist and guerilla strategy based on suicide bombings, and has extended its operations beyond the borders of Nigeria, executing attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Afghanistan

- About 69 suicide bombings were carried out in Afghanistan in 2015 by 96 perpetrators, compared with about 124 attacks in 2014 (a decrease of about 55 attacks - 44%). 400 people were killed in these attacks.
- About 41 suicide bombings (59%) were carried out against security and military targets: these attacks were carried out at security checkpoints, Afghan army strongholds, police stations, and military bases. Of the 41 attacks, about six were carried out against foreign NATO forces.
- About 11 suicide bombings (16%) were carried out against civilian targets: these attacks were carried in marketplaces, bus stations, airports, and hospitals.
- About eight of all the suicide bombings (12%) in Afghanistan were part of a combined attack in which armed soldiers also took part. About six of these attacks

were carried out against security targets and two against government targets (a court and the legislature building).

- The Taliban took responsibility for 39 suicide bombings (57%), the Islamic State carried out and took responsibility for one attack (the assassination of a senior Taliban commander), and the Province of Khorasan, the Afghan branch of the Islamic State, carried out and took responsibility for one attack.

The decrease in suicide bombings in Afghanistan can be explained by the vacuum created following the declaration of the end of the military operations by the American forces in the country in December 2014. It should be noted that only towards the end of the year (in October 2015) was it decided to extend the American mission in Afghanistan.

This development, which involves the withdrawal of the foreign forces, changed the nature of the Taliban's actions in the country. In 2015, the organization focused its efforts on extensive occupied territories in Afghanistan and deterring the security forces. The Taliban controls or has a significant presence in 30% of the districts in the country – the highest figure since 2001.

Pakistan

- About 24 suicide bombings were carried out in Pakistan in 2015 by 31 perpetrators, compared with 36 attacks in 2014 (about 12 fewer attacks –33%). About 220 people were killed in these attacks.
- About eight attacks (33%) were carried out against security and military targets: these attacks were carried out at police stations, against the Pakistani security forces, and at security checkpoints.
- About seven attacks (29%) were carried out against religious targets: about six of these attacks were carried out against the Shiite population and one attack was carried out against Christians at a church.
- About five attacks (21%) were carried out against government targets: these attacks were carried out at government buildings.
- About three attacks (13%) were carried out against civilian targets: one at a school, one in a city center, and one on an important traffic artery.
- The Pakistan Taliban took responsibility for about five attacks, and about seven more attacks were carried out by the following sectarian organizations: Jamaay-ul-Ahrar – three attacks, Jundallah – two attacks, Lashkar e Islam – one attack, and Lashkar e Jhangvi – one attack.

In 2015, the Pakistani army conducted major operations against the terrorist organizations operating in the country, including the Pakistani Taliban, but also against sectarian organizations, such as Lashkar e Jhangvi. As a result, the level of sectarian violence dropped significantly. Pakistan deprived the terrorist organizations of the social space in which they had operated by enforcing strict regulations against incitement by the organizations and the sale of weapons, which made it difficult to carry out terrorist attacks.

Syria

- About 39 suicide bombings were carried out in Syria in 2015 by 60 perpetrators, compared with 41 attacks in 2014 (a decrease of about two attacks –5%). About 347 people were killed in these attacks.
- About 26 suicide bombings (67%) were carried out against security and military targets: these attacks were carried out against the security forces, security checkpoints, against the rebel forces, and on the battlefield.
- About two suicide bombings (5%) were carried out against religious targets: one attack against the Shi'ite population and one attack in a mosque.
- The Islamic State took responsibility for about 11 suicide bombings. The Jabhat al-Nusra organization took responsibility for about four attacks, and no one took responsibility for the other attacks.

The minor decrease in suicide bombings in Syria in 2015 could be a result of shifts in Islamic State's objectives. Although suicide bombings continued to be a key part of the Islamic State's modus operandi, it chose to divert some of its resources in from Syria other countries, mainly Iraq.

Up until the Russian intervention in Syria in early September 2015, the balance of power in Syria was shifting. In contrast to 2013-2014, it appears that in 2015, while the Assad regime became weaker, the anti-Assad rebels and Jabhat al-Nusra gained strength. At the same time, suicide bombings are not the trademark of any of them. Jabhat al-Nusra uses this method, but much less than the Islamic State. Russian intervention in Syria obviously affected the operational methods of the organizations active there.

Somalia

- About 18 suicide bombings were carried out in Somalia in 2015 by 20 perpetrators, compared with about 19 attacks in 2014 (a decrease of one attack). About 186 people were killed in these attacks.
- About 12 suicide bombings (67%) were carried out against security targets – government and military: these attacks were carried out at military bases and strongholds against UN forces, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON), and government buildings.
- About six suicide bombings (33%) were carried out against civilian targets: these attacks were carried out at hotels (four), an intersection (one), and a restaurant (one).
- Al-Shabaab took responsibility for about 17 suicide bombings.
- One attack was carried out by a female suicide perpetrator at a hotel in which about 25 people were killed and about 40 wounded.

The stability in the number of suicide bombings in Somalia resulted from the change that took place during the year in the composition of al-Shabaab's soldiers. The organization carried out four compound attacks during the year, including blowing up vehicles at the entrance to guarded compounds. In addition to terrorists, these attacks also

included the entry of armed soldiers. Al-Shabaab's operations present a high level of capabilities as a significant number of attacks were carried out against highly sheltered security and government targets.

It should be noted that the suicide bombings number in Somalia remains stable, in view of the question of al-Shabaab's affiliation: continued loyalty to al-Qaeda, or a declaration of loyalty to the Islamic State.

Libya

- About 13 suicide bombings were carried out in Libya in 2015 by 17 perpetrators, compared with about 11 attacks in 2014 (an increase of two attacks –18%). About 96 people were killed in these attacks.
- About suicide bombings (61%) were carried out against security targets: these attacks were carried out at security checkpoints (seven) and one at a military base.
- About three suicide bombings (23%) were carried out against civilian targets: one attack at a hotel, one at a power station, and one in a city center.
- The Islamic State took responsibility for about nine suicide bombings. The Shura Council of Mujahideen in Derna organization, affiliated with al-Qaeda, took responsibility for one.

The minor increase in suicide bombings observed in Libya may result from the arrival of Islamic State operatives in eastern Libya from Syria starting in the spring of 2014. These operatives established the Islamic State's stronghold in Libya, and were joined by local residents. It should be noted that in response to the reinforcing of the Islamic State operatives in Libya, a number of attempts to achieve unity have been made by the Libyan parliament.

Yemen

- About 13 suicide bombings were carried out in Yemen in 2015 by 20 perpetrators, compared with 29 attacks in 2014 (a decrease of about 16 attacks –52%). About 264 people were killed in these attacks.
- About six suicide bombings (46%) were carried out against security targets: these attacks were carried out at security checkpoints, police stations, and a building of the security forces.
- About five attacks (38%) were carried out against religious targets, against the Shiite population in mosques.
- The Islamic State took responsibility for five attacks. Al-Qaeda took responsibility for one attack, and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula took responsibility for one attack.

One of the reasons for the decrease in the number of attacks in Yemen results from the activity of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The organization, which was behind suicide bombings in Yemen during 2014, concentrated in 2015 on fighting

together with the Sunni tribes against the Houthis in order to take over key holdings in Yemen, for example the strategic port of Mukalla. Furthermore, the Islamic State's activity stood out in 2015, including suicide bombings against the Shiite population. The attack in March at a Shiite mosque, in which 137 people were killed, should be mentioned in this context.

Cameroon

- About 13 suicide bombings were carried out in Cameroon in 2015 by 25 perpetrators, compared with none in 2014. About 117 people were killed in these attacks.
- About 11 suicide bombings (84%) were carried out against civilian targets: these attacks were carried out in villages, marketplaces, bus stations, and local shops.
- About 11 suicide bombings (84%) were carried out by 21 female suicide bombers.
- Wilayat West Africa claimed responsibility for three attacks carried out in Cameroon. No one took responsibility for the other attacks.

It should be noted that zero suicide bombings were carried out in Cameroon before 2015. One of the factors leading to the suicide bombings in Cameroon this year was following the Boko Haram expansion to new territories due to the organization's oath of allegiance to the Islamic State in March 2015. Following the expansion of the Islamic States satellites beyond the Middle East, the number of suicide bombings in Africa rose, and spread to new countries, among them Cameroon.

Egypt

- About 12 suicide bombings were carried out in Egypt in 2015 by 18 perpetrators, compared with four in 2014 (an increase of about eight attacks –200%). 117 people were killed in these attacks.
- About 11 suicide bombings (91%) were carried out against security and military targets: these attacks were carried out at security checkpoints and against the Egyptian security forces.
- One attack was carried out at a hotel in which senior Egyptian law officials were staying.
- The Wilayat Sinai organization claimed responsibility for nine attacks; no one took responsibility for the three other attacks.

In 2015, the suicide bombings in Egypt were concentrated mainly in the Sinai Peninsula. All the attacks except for one were carried out against security or military targets.

The increase in suicide bombings, in comparison with 2014, was made possible by the financing obtained by the Islamic State branch in Sinai, Wilayat Sinai. Note should be taken of the combined attack carried out by Wilayat Sinai in July 2015 at a security

checkpoint in northern Sinai. About three suicide terrorists and dozens armed men took part in this attack, which claimed the lives of 64 people.

Chad

- About eight suicide bombings were carried out in Chad in 2015 by 23 perpetrators, compared with none in 2014. About 72 people were killed in these attacks.
- About four attacks (50%) were carried out against security and military targets: these attacks were carried out at police buildings and at security checkpoints.
- About four attacks (50%) were carried out against civilian targets: these attacks were carried out in urban marketplaces.
- About three attacks were carried out by female suicide bombers.
- The Islamic State claimed responsibility for one attack, and its local branch, Wilayat West Africa, took responsibility for three other attacks. No one took responsibility for the remaining four attacks.

Up until 2015, no suicide bombings were carried out in Chad. The suicide bombings in the country can be explained by the Boko Haram organization's oath of allegiance to the Islamic State in March 2015. Following the expansion of the Islamic State's satellites beyond the Middle East, the number of suicide bombings in Africa rose and spread to new countries, among them Chad.

Saudi Arabia

- About five suicide bombings were carried out in Saudi Arabia in 2015 by five perpetrators, compared with one in 2014. About 41 people were killed in these attacks.
- About four suicide bombings (80%) were carried out against religious targets: four attacks were carried out in mosques, three of which were carried out against the Shiite population.
- One attack (20%) was carried out against a security target: this attack was carried out at a security checkpoint.
- The Islamic State took responsibility for and carried out all five of the attacks in Saudi Arabia in 2015.

Suicide bombings in 2015 were carried out by the Islamic State, while previous suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia were carried out by operatives of al-Qaeda Hejaz. The Islamic State aimed its suicide bombings mainly against the Shiite population in order to create a religious war between the Shiite factions and the Sunni factions.

Turkey

- About five suicide bombings were carried out in Turkey in 2015 by seven perpetrators, compared with none in 2014. About 137 people were killed in these attacks.

- About three attacks were carried out against the Turkish security forces: one was carried out during a raid on the Turkish security forces, and two others were carried out at police stations.
- About two suicide bombings were carried out against pro-Kurdish activists: one was carried out during a conference of pro-Kurdish activists, and the other was carried out during a peace rally by pro-Kurdish activists.
- One suicide bombing at a police station was carried out by a female suicide perpetrator from the Marxist-Leninist DHKP/C party.
- The Islamic State took responsibility for three suicide bombings. Two other suicide bombings were carried out by non-jihad organizations: one by the Kurdish PKK underground, and one by the Marxist-Leninist DHKP/C party.

In Turkey, two suicide bombings carried out by the Islamic State against pro-Kurdish activists stood out this year. The deadliest attack was in Ankara, in which 103 people were killed. Turkey took internal and external steps in 2015 to redouble its efforts in the struggle against the Islamic State.

As part of the internal measures, the Turkish security forces conducted a wave of arrests and extensive raids against Islamic State cells. The external measures included allowing the United States to conduct aerial missions against the Islamic State from Turkish air force bases, and stressing the important fight against the Islamic State.

Mali

- About four suicide bombings were carried out in Mali in 2015 by four perpetrators,¹ compared with three in 2014. About 17 people were killed in these attacks.
- All the attacks were carried out against security targets: one attack was carried out at a security checkpoint, one attack against the rebel forces, and two attacks were carried out at bases of the UN forces.
- The al-Mourabitoun organization, which is affiliated with al-Qaeda, took responsibility for one attack, and no one took responsibility for the other three attacks.

Although there were few suicide bombings in Mali, the attack against the hotel in Bamako in November 2015, in which 19 people were killed, stood out. In addition, it should also be noted that France intervened militarily in Mali in January 2013 in order to push back extremist forces belonging to al-Qaeda (al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) seeking to gain control of the capital, after having conquered the northern part of the country. In July 2013, after the French and African forces had pushed the armed rebel forces out of most of the areas in northern Mali, control of Mali was transferred to UN forces. This explains why two attacks were carried out against bases of the UN forces.

Niger

¹ A suicide terrorist attack was carried out on January 28, 2015 in Gao, in which an unknown number of suicide attackers supporters of the regime attacked a rebel base.

- About five suicide bombings were carried out in Niger in 2015 by eight perpetrators, compared with none in 2014. About 16 people were killed in these attacks.
- About three suicide bombings were carried out against security targets: these attacks were carried out at security checkpoints and at a military base.
- One suicide bombing was carried out against a civilian target in a marketplace.
- Two suicide bombings were carried out by two female perpetrators: one was carried out in a marketplace, and the other was carried out against the local security forces.
- Boko Haram took responsibility for one attack, and no one took responsibility for the remaining four.

The suicide bombings in Niger in 2015 can be explained by the Boko Haram organization's oath of allegiance to the Islamic State in March 2015. Following the expansion of the Islamic States satellites beyond the Middle East, the number of suicide bombings in Africa rose, including in countries in which no attacks were carried out in 2014, among them Niger.

China

- About three suicide bombings were carried out in China in 2015 by eight perpetrators, compared with five in 2014. About eight people were killed in these attacks.
- Two suicide bombings were carried out against Chinese police units and one attack was carried out in a city center.

Lebanon

- About three suicide bombings were carried out in Lebanon in 2015 by six perpetrators, compared with 13 in 2014. About 57 people were killed in these attacks.
- One attack was carried out in a marketplace, one in a café, and one at a meeting of Syrian Muslim religious figures.
- The Islamic State claimed responsibility for one attack, the Jabhat al-Nusra organization took responsibility for one attack, and no one took responsibility for the remaining attack.

France

- Two suicide bombings were carried out in France in 2015 by eight perpetrators, compared with none in 2014. About 130 people were killed in these attacks.

The Islamic State carried out the two suicide bombings, which were separated by only a few days. Seven suicide terrorists took part in the first attack, in addition to many armed men attacking a number of targets around Paris.

The second suicide terrorist attack was carried out about five days after the terrorist offensive, when French security forces raided a house in which a terrorist squad was hiding. The squad conducted a gun battle with the security forces.

Kuwait

- A single suicide bombing was carried out in Kuwait in 2015 by one suicide perpetrator, compared with none in 2014. About 27 people were killed in this attack, which was carried out in a Shiite mosque. The Islamic State took responsibility for the attack.

India

- A single suicide bombing was carried out in India in 2015 by one female suicide perpetrator, compared with none in 2014. One person was killed in this attack. The perpetrator blew herself up outside the courthouse, apparently in order to distract the attention of the security forces and help two prisoners to escape.

Tunisia

- A single suicide bombing was carried out in Tunisia in 2015 by one perpetrator, compared with none in 2014. About 12 people were killed in this attack. The attack occurred when the suicide perpetrator boarded the presidential bus near the capital of Tunis. The Islamic State took responsibility for the attack.

Bangladesh

- A single suicide bombing was carried out in Bangladesh in 2015, compared with none in 2014. One person was killed in this attack. The attack was carried out by the Islamic State during Friday prayers at a mosque associated with the Muslim Ahmadiyya group. It should be noted that 100,000 people in Bangladesh belong to this group.