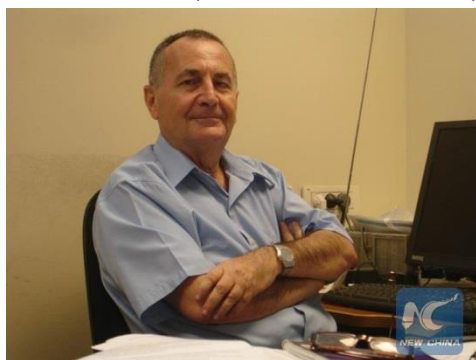


Surge in Europe's terror attacks connected to IS defeats in Mideast: Israeli expert

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Shlomo Brom, head of the Program on Israeli-Palestinian Relations at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University.

JERUSALEM, June 21 (Xinhua) -- The recent surge in terror attacks in Europe has a definite connection with the defeats suffered by the terror group Islamic State (IS) in the Mideast, a senior Israeli expert told Xinhua in an exclusive interview.

Dozens of people have been killed since March in a spate of terror attacks that has spread through the United Kingdom, France and Belgium, in which the terror suspects used vehicles, knives and explosives to mow down pedestrians, attack police and blow up innocent people.

Many people suspect that the surge in terror attacks in Europe could be caused by the spillover effect of IS defeats in the Mideast.

Indeed, IS forces are now being surrounded and cornered in Mosul and Raqqa, its de facto capitals in Iraq and Syria, after suffering repeated defeats in fighting.

"There is definitely a connection," said Shlomo Brom, head of the Program on Israeli-Palestinian Relations at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Brom explained that there are two major reasons for the link between the rise of terror attacks in Europe and the continued loss of territories by IS in the Mideast.

For full report, see:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/22/c_136386480.htm