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ISLAMIC STATE

Flow of foreign fighters to Islamic State plummets

But some may be choosing to attack at home instead.

By Griff Witte, Sudarsan Raghavan and James McAuley Washington Post



Islamic State militants who were killed during an attack in March are buried in unmarked graves in Ben Guerdane, Tunisia. The decline in fighters marks a milestone in global efforts to defeat the Islamic State, experts say.

LONDON — The flow of foreign fighters to the ranks of the Islamic State — once a mighty current of thousands of radicalized men and women converging on Syrian and Iraqi battlefields from nations across the globe — has been cut to a trickle this year as the group's territory has shrunk and its ambitions have withered.

The decline, officials and experts say, has been dramatic, prolonged and geographically widespread, with the number of Europeans, Americans, North Africans and others joining up to fight and die for the idea of a revived Islamic caliphate falling as precipitously as the terrorist group's fortunes.

From a peak of 2,000 foreign recruits crossing the Turkey-Syria border each month, the Islamic State and other extremist groups operating in Syria are down to as few as 50, according to U.S. intelligence assessments.

Governments from Britain to Tunisia say their citizens are less likely than they have been in years to heed the Islamic State's calls for front-line volunteers.

Diminished flows deprive the organization of needed reinforcements and further erode its ability to cast itself as the rebirth of a vast Islamic empire. But they also raise questions about whether the terrorism threat is actually easing or just morphing into a more dangerous new phase.

"It's a massive falloff," said Peter Neumann, director of the International Center for the Study of Radicalization at King's College London. "And it's basically because Islamic State is a failing entity now. The appeal of Islamic State rested on its strength and its winning. Now that it's losing, it's no longer attractive."

The sustained decline marks an important milestone in global efforts to defeat the Islamic State, reflecting measures ranging from a multinational military campaign to, in at least one nation, rules requiring parental permission slips before young men can leave the country.

But Neumann and others said the decline in Islamic State recruiting — which has come almost as quickly as it rose following leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's declaration of a caliphate in 2014 — is hardly an unmitigated suc-

cess for the U.S. and its allies.

Instead, it may be the beginning of a new stage one in which would-be fighters choose to carry out attacks at home rather than travel abroad, and battle-hardened veterans seek out new lands for conflict.

"It's like after the Afghanistan war in the 1980s," said Neumann, citing the period after Soviet troops withdrew in 1989 and legions of foreign fighters formed a diaspora of radicalized veterans that subsequently fueled the rise of al-Qaida. "They'll be asking themselves, 'What's next?'"

That peril helps explain why U.S. and other officials have been cautious in trumpeting the declining foreign-fighter numbers.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve announced last week that there was "a fourfold decrease" in the number

of French citizens who have traveled to the Islamic State's domain in the first six months of 2016, compared to the 69 fighters who did so over the same period last year.

Rather than celebrate, however, French officials have been bracing the public for what could happen if some among the almost 700 French citizens or residents who are still fighting in Syria and Iraq decide it is time to come home.

"Their return represents an additional menace for our national security," said French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, whose country has been hit by repeated terrorist attacks in the past two years.

One European law enforcement official said that although the number of people departing for Syria has been dropping, the security threat may simply be changing, not diminishing.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Jail anti-rape rules slow to take effect

Only 12 states are in full compliance 4 years on, feds say.

By Juan A. Lozano Associated Press

HOUSTON — Miguel Moll knew the risk of rape when he was thrown into a Texas jail in 1989 after joyriding in a stolen car.

Then 17, he was placed in a holding pen in Houston, and an older inmate said of the teenager, "I got this one." The comment sparked the first of many fights Moll had while behind bars.

"The mentality you have to develop very quickly is either that of a wolf or that of a lamb," he recalled.

A generation later, the federal government has adopted guidelines intended to prevent prison rape in part by separating young offenders from adult inmates. But four years after the rules were supposed to take effect, they are proving difficult to adopt.

Since 2012, states have been working to meet the standards set forth by the Prison Rape Elimination Act, or PREA, which was partially inspired by the 1996 death of Rodney Hulin, an undersized 17-year-old inmate who hanged himself in Texas after his requests for help following repeated rapes by adult inmates were denied.

Texas sheriff's offices say separating the two populations has been a challenge because of overcrowding and steep financial costs.

"It's a big logistical headache," Brazos County Sheriff Chris Kirk said.

The law was also supposed to provide for better staff training, improved reporting and investigation of all sexual assaults behind bars and more money for research.

In 2011-12, an estimated 4

percent of state and federal inmates and 3.2 percent of jail inmates reported experiencing one or more incidents of sexual victimization by another inmate or facility staff, according to the Justice Department.

The rape-prevention law "is a valuable and important act, and we take it very seriously," said Ryan Sullivan, a spokesman for the Harris County Sheriff's Office, which has about 150 youth offenders at its jail in Houston. The facility holds more than 9,000 inmates.

The Harris County Jail was cited in May for not housing 17-year-old offenders apart from adult inmates. Elsewhere in Texas, Dallas County is spending more than \$11,000 per week to keep at least 60 juveniles separated from adults at its jail complex.

The nation's 7,600-plus prisons, jails, community-based facilities and juvenile detention centers are being checked on their compliance with the law. So far, only 12 states are in full compliance, according to the Justice Department; 36 others say they are working to comply.

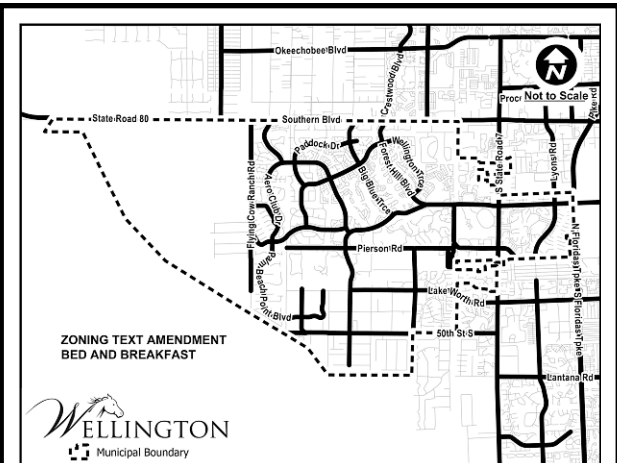
Still, the department said in an email that it sees "evidence of a very substantial effort nationwide" to satisfy the new standards.

The age separation has been especially complicated in states such as Texas that prosecute 17-year-olds as adults. Advocates say some facilities still question whether the federal mandate applies to them.

In many jurisdictions, one of the biggest barriers is summoning the political will to make changes, said Brenda Smith, who was a member of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission, which helped develop the standards.

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VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON WELLINGTON COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes, the Wellington Council will hold public hearing on the adoption of the following Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA'S COUNCIL AMENDING SECTION 6.4.4.20 OF THE WELLINGTON LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS RELATED TO BED AND BREAKFAST ESTABLISHMENTS; AMENDING SECTION 6.10.7.B.4 OF THE WELLINGTON LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS RELATED TO BED AND BREAKFAST ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE EQUESTRIAN OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Said public hearing will be held as follows:

WELLINGTON COUNCIL

Location: Village Hall, 12300 Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington, Florida.
Date: September 27, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the orderly course of business.

The hearings of the request may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. Copies of all documents pertaining to the proposed ordinance are available in the Planning and Zoning Division at the address listed below and can be reviewed by the public Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Division
12300 West Forest Hill Boulevard
Wellington, Florida, 33414
(561) 753-2430

Appeals: If a person decides to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. All appeals must be filed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wellington Land Development Regulations.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this hearing, because of a disability or physical impairment, should contact the Wellington Manager's Office at (561) 791-4000 at least five calendar days prior to the Hearing.

Dated: September 6, 2016
Publish: The Post September 12, 2016

Free "Senior Survival" Workshop

Hear about the new Tax Laws and new Medicaid Laws and these topics:

LIVING TRUSTS

- Why Living Trusts can still benefit middle class people who have no concern about estate taxes.
How trusts can be created or revised to protect your children's inheritance from divorce and creditors.
Why you may need to revise your existing Living Trust in light of the new estate tax laws.

NURSING HOME - MEDICAID

- What you may own and still be eligible for Medicaid
The truth about look-back rules... why you may still be eligible for Medicaid even if you've transferred money in the last 5 years
How you may still be eligible for Medicaid for nursing home care even if you earn more than \$2,199 per month (the income cap in Florida)
How you may provide for your spouse before you spend it all on nursing home expenses
How assets may still be preserved if you are currently in a nursing home
How an irrevocable trust may preserve and protect assets
Why your nursing home insurance may be inadequate to meet your needs

VETERANS BENEFITS

- How Veterans and their widows may receive VA benefits to assist with home care, assisted living, or nursing home care expenses.

Attendees are eligible for a free, one-hour private consultation to answer any questions you have about estate planning or Medicaid planning (provided we are the right law firm to assist you), even if you already have a Living Trust

Port St. Lucie

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Port St. Lucie Holiday Inn
10120 S. Federal Highway (North of Port St. Lucie Blvd.)

Palm Beach Gardens

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Palm Beach Gardens Marriott
4000 RCA Blvd. (East of I-95, south of PGA Blvd.)

Boynton Beach

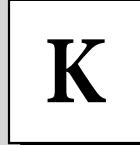
Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriott
1601 N. Congress Avenue (Between Boynton Beach Blvd. and Gateway Blvd.)

\* NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY \* REFRESHMENTS SERVED \*

Workshops are conducted by Joseph S. Karp and Genny Bernstein, Florida Certified Elder Law Attorneys



Joseph S. Karp



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Genny Bernstein

Port St. Lucie (772) 343-8411

Palm Beach Gardens (561) 625-1100

Boynton Beach (561) 752-4550

Toll Free (800) 893-9911

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Some people find hotel rooms to be cool - you might want to bring along a jacket or sweater

COX MEDIA GROUP Palm Beach The Palm Beach Post Palm Beach Daily News

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