



Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) Capabilities, June to July 2015



| Variable (in order of importance) | Capabilities | Comment |
|---|--------------|--|
| Territory | | In June and July, ISIS made no significant strategic territorial advances. |
| Finances | | There have been no major changes in ISIS's revenue levels. The group has been generating enough income to deliver some services to people in areas under its control, while sustaining military efforts from oil sales, internal state taxation, illicit schemes, and global donations. |
| Group Stability | | ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi delegated more authority to his inner circle and regional commanders in Iraq and Syria, likely an effort to limit disruption of the group's operations in the event of his death or the death of other top figures. |
| Recruitment and Radicalization | | Seven ISIS-inspired HVEs in the US either planned to conduct an attack or provided material support to the group. Six were arrested and one was killed. ISIS also began to recruit in new locales such as Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. |
| External Operations (outside Iraq and Syria) | | ISIS conducted eight successful attacks in June and July—four in Egypt, one in Yemen, one in Saudi Arabia, one in Tunisia, and one in Kuwait. The attacks in Kuwait and Tunisia occurred within one hour of each other, demonstrating ISIS's ability to coordinate and direct near-simultaneous international attacks. |
| Overall | | We assess there has been no change to ISIS's overall capabilities in June and July. ISIS remains a severe threat to the US and its partners. |

This product assesses several variables impacting ISIS's overall capabilities, as compared to an initial analysis in January 2015. Going forward, these five variables and an overall assessment will be updated every two months to reflect current events and to compare changes in the group's capabilities. The information cut-off for this product is July 31, 2015.

- Increase in capabilities
- Decrease in capabilities
- No change in capabilities



Variables and Definitions

*The variables are presented in order of importance



- **Territory:** This is the organization's ability to exert influence over areas, allowing members to operate freely, resist government control, and train operatives. Other factors may include an ability to control key infrastructure and influence the local population.
- **Finances:** The financial health of the terrorist group is measured by its available funding, assets that can be liquidated for funds—such as natural resources—and the sustainability of this funding. Fundraising, donations, kidnapping for ransom, extortion or taxation, and criminal activity such as smuggling are also considered.
- **Group Stability:** The stability of the group is measured by the continuity of military operations and leadership cohesiveness. Factors that negatively impact stability would include the death or arrest of leaders, unanticipated changes in leadership, the death or arrest of key members such as bombmakers or external operations planners, and the arrest or defection of a significant number of members. Factors that would increase stability include the establishment of governance structures and bureaucratic standard operating procedures in controlled areas.
- **Radicalization and Recruitment:** These variables are measured by the terrorist group's ability to draw new members to its cause. Factors examined include statements originating from the organization's official media wing, media from its supporters, media operations specifically targeting Western audiences, and the group's social media presence and activities.
- **External Operations:** The ability of the terrorist group to plan or launch attacks outside its primary area of operations or home base. External operations are primarily attacks directed or centrally planned by the organization's leadership or top planners.
- **Overall:** The capabilities of the terrorist organization as a whole, taking into account all variables.