

Foreign fighters: threats

A closer look into the approach of the Belgium Prison Service

February 2017



Peace in Belgium



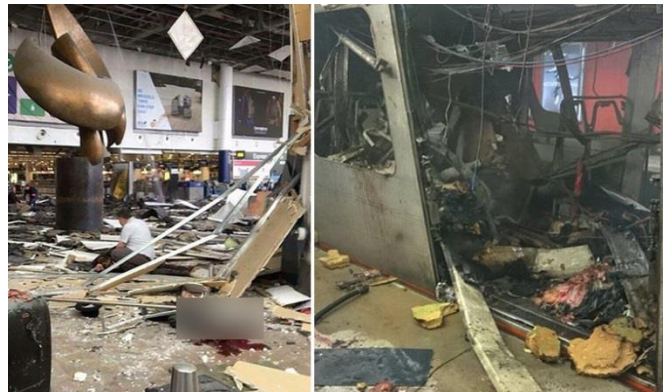
Terrorism in Belgium



24/05/2014, Attack Jewish museum - Brussels

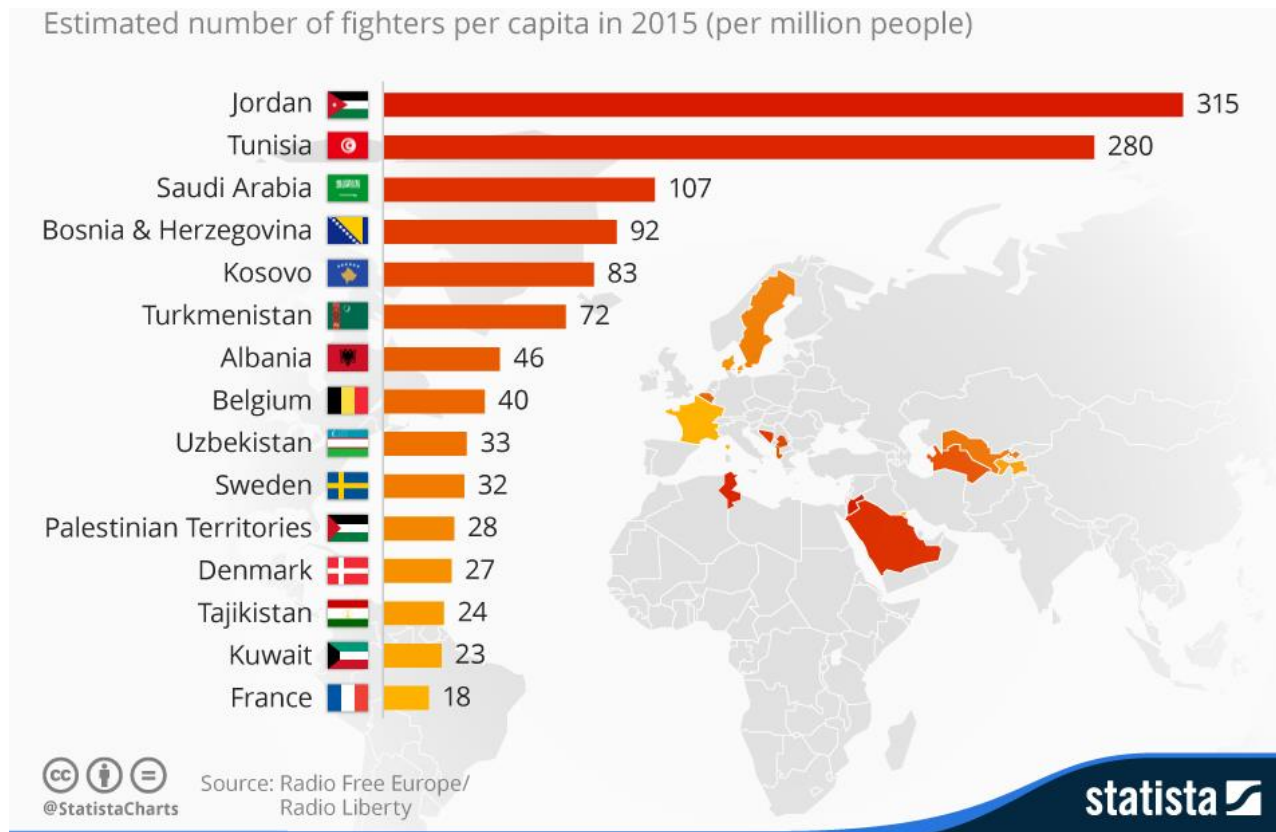


15/01/2015, Arrestations - Verviers



22/03/2016, Attack airport and subway - Brussels

Belgium is the EU 'capital' for foreign fighters



... But the problem is bigger than just foreign fighters!

→ Radicalisation : big challenge & political issue !



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: policy

- Action plan towards radicalisation in prison (2015)
- Central goal is twofold:
 1. Preventing radicalisation in prison
 2. Develop a adequate framework (infrastructural/human resources) to deal with radicalized prisoners



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: policy

Central goal is to achieve by 10 action points:

1. Improve living conditions in prisons
2. Improve the collecting of information and analysis
3. An improved organised information exchange



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: policy

4. Automatisatization of the information exchange
5. Basic training in favor of adequate detection + awareness actions
6. A deliberate placing policy
7. Specialized training for all staff members who are daily in contact with radicalized prisoners



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: policy

8. Systematic involvement of the representatives of the different recognized religions
9. Development of deradicalisation program in prison
10. Improve mutual contacts with the different actors in Belgium and the member states of the EU



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: a deliberate placing policy

- Initially the placement policy is oriented to normalisation:
 - Radicalised prisoners are placed in 'common' wings of 'common' prisons
 - They have a 'common' regime such as the other prisoners
 - 'limited' living conditions only as consequence of concrete facts/incidents
 - An observation period with limited freedom (2 months)



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: a deliberate placing policy

- In case of doubt possible transfer to ‘satellite’ prisons
 - Satellite prison = normal prison with trained staff on risk assessment and screening
 - Living conditions are the same as common prisoners
 - When needed transfer to ‘specialized’ wings after analysis by CELEX



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: a deliberate placing policy

- 2 specialized wings (11 april 2016)
 - Location: Ittre & Hasselt
 - Capacity: each 20 places
 - Additional security infrastructure
 - Profoundly trained staff
 - Basic rights of prisoners are still preserved



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: a deliberate placing policy

- Living conditions:
 - Transfer only after analysis by CELEX
 - Permanent risk for radicalising other prisoners
 - A lasting engagement in armed battle and radical ideology
 - Isolation as a group from other wings in prison (containment)
 - Based on a deradicalisation program (in development)



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: Training program

- A training program that covers different functions in the prison staff
- Possible with the aid of AMIF – ISF fund
- Program by type of staff
 - All staff members
 - Specific groups
 - Staff members of satellite prisons + specialised wings



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: Training program

- All staff members
 - Basic e-learning course of 2h on radicalisation (in development)
 - Introduction to the islam
- Specific groups
 - Annual conference on radicalisation:
 - Prison governors and people involved with risk assessment
 - Participation on conference abroad:
 - Celex and central management services



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: Training program

- Staff members of satellite prisons and specialized wings
 - Governors – 7 day training :
 - Moderate islam
 - Radical islam
 - Process of radicalisation
 - Identifying signs of radicalisation
 - Positive interaction
 - People involved with risk assessment
 - Same training + 2 days: risk assessment tool VERA-2



Radicalisation in Belgian prisons: Training program

- Staff members of specialized wings
 - Security staff – 7 day training program:
 - Moderate islam
 - Radical islam
 - Proces of radicalisation
 - Identifying signs of radicalisation
 - Non violent communication (practice)
- Training on deradicalisation

