

Prayer Alert: What ISIS' Growing Threat Means for Israel Right Now

The Jerusalem Post in mid-August reported that the Islamic State (ISIS), "Is much larger than previously thought and still poses a significant threat." The U.S. Defense Department, U.S. Congress and the United Nations estimate there are up to 30,000 ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria, and the jihadis now are "eyeing a new caliphate in Afghanistan."

What, if anything, does the resurgence of ISIS mean to the Jewish people?

The ISIS Threat to Israel

ISIS leadership hasn't yet shown a direct interest in Israel—not because Israel isn't on the ISIS radar, but because Israel isn't the first priority.

The Times of Israel cited a 2016 article in the ISIS weekly newspaper in which an ISIS leader explained that ending Saudi Arabia's control over Mecca and Medina was the terror group's first priority. "For the Islamic State, ' Jihad in Palestine is equal to jihad elsewhere,'" *The Times of Israel* stated. "The [ISIS] article calls for jihadists to take the fight to 'infidels' nearest to them. Therefore, fighting the Jews should be left to Muslims in Israel/Palestine, while Syrian Muslims should fight Bashar Assad and Egyptian Muslims should fight Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi."

The article states that ISIS must topple Arab regimes that defend Israel before its fighters cross "the borders of [the] Jew[ish] state and confront its army directly."

The threat to Israel and the Jewish people comes from two

sources: 1) lone wolf attacks from jihadists in Palestine, Israel and anywhere else in the world and 2) from a larger ISIS force that hopes to attack Israel once it destroys secular Arab states.

Recent ISIS Plots and Attacks Against Israel

In 2015, Israeli authorities broke up the first known terror plot inside Israel and indicted seven Israeli-Arabs for belonging to an ISIS cell. Several more plots have been thwarted since then.

Still ISIS-inspired “lone wolf” attacks started inside Israel in 2016. An Israeli Arab shot three people in Tel Aviv, and two Palestinians killed four Israelis at Tel Aviv’s Sarona Market. Since then, Israel has revoked citizenship of several Israelis who were trained by ISIS in Iraq and Syria and returned to Israel for jihad.

Later that year, ISIS-linked Palestinians began firing on Israeli military.

ISIS affiliates in Egypt and Syria launched rocket attacks into Israel in July 2018. The Egypt affiliate fired two rockets from the Sinai Peninsula into southern Israel because Israel had helped fight jihadists who had killed 50 Egyptian soldiers in northern Sinai. The Syria affiliate shot missiles from the Golan Heights area southern Israel, presumably to goad Israel into attacking Syrian army positions. Instead, Israel destroyed the ISIS rocket launcher.

These sorts of attacks will continue against Israel while ISIS works to defeat the Arab nations around Israel and bring Mecca and Medina under ISIS control.

Wasn’t ISIS Defeated?

We’ve heard ISIS was defeated and its caliphate destroyed. While it’s true the “state” part of the Islamic State has

declined because of military losses of land it held in Iraq and Syria (once the size of the United Kingdom), the ideology is alive and growing. ISIS has gone underground and continues to recruit jihadists to carry out its goal to control the entire world under strict Islamic rule.

According to , “ISIS may have lost ground, but it has reverted to isolated attacks. It funds its operations through international narcotics trade.”

The Jerusalem Post also has reported that ISIS is building its cyber capacities, not only to distribute propaganda and encourage “lone wolf” attacks in the West, but also to hack institutions and critical infrastructure throughout the world.

The organization uses its income and technology to recruit jihadists, pay them better than competing terror groups, indoctrinate children and launch attacks on “infidels,” including Israel and the Jewish people.

Pray With Us

ISIS is a threat to Jewish people and other citizens worldwide. Please pray with us:

- For divine wisdom in thwarting “lone wolf” attacks in Israel and beyond
- For God to intervene in the ISIS indoctrination of children under ISIS control
- That Israel’s advanced cyber capabilities will help the world continue to stay ahead of ISIS online
- For the protection of Jewish people and other ISIS targets around the world. {eo}

This article originally appeared at .