

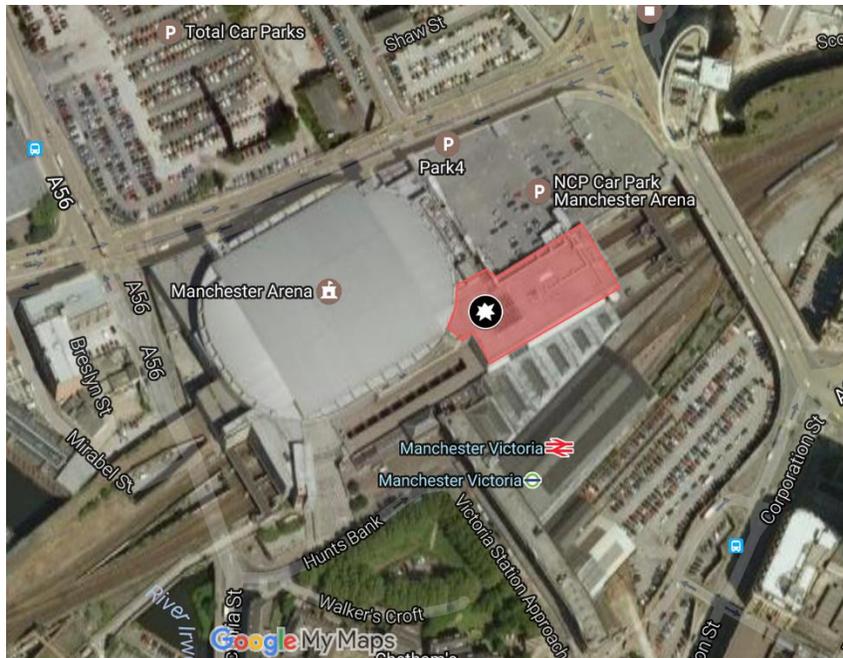
# The May 2017 Manchester Suicide Bombing Attack

## The attack

On Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, at around 22:30, 22 people lost their lives and close to a hundred were injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up at the foyer of the Manchester Arena in Manchester, United Kingdom. At the time of the explosion, close to 21,000 people, mostly under the age of 18, were making their way out of the Manchester Arena concert hall after attending a concert of American pop star, Ariana Grande. According to reports, the bomber, 22-year-old Salman Ramadan Abedi, arrived at the ticket stall located at the Arena's foyer after travelling on the local Tube system's Victoria Station.<sup>1</sup> Once Abedi positioned himself at the scene, he waited several minutes before detonating the explosives which were placed in a backpack he carried on himself. From the initial explosion, 19 individuals were killed immediately with three additional individual succumbing to their injuries within several hours. Initial eye-witness reports from the scene mentioned "two loud bangs" and the possibility of a loud speaker malfunction which caused an explosion.

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<sup>1</sup> "UK police: 22 confirmed dead after terror incident at Ariana Grande concert," *CBS News*, May 23, 2017, accessed May 23, 2017, <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/ariana-grande-concert-manchester-arena-explosion/>



Immediately following the explosion, emergency warnings were broadcasted over the PA system asking all concert-goers to evacuate the hall in an orderly manner. At the same time, emergency services, police, fire, and medical first responders made their way to the Manchester Arena. Only at around midnight did local law enforcement confirm a 'major incident' has taken place without mentioning the word terrorism or even explosion. By 12:20 of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, bomb disposal units arrived at the Arena, and only at 12:43 were the injured rushed to nearby hospitals.

At 1:10 Great Manchester Police announced the initial number of fatalities and that they were treating the incident as an act of terrorism.<sup>2</sup>

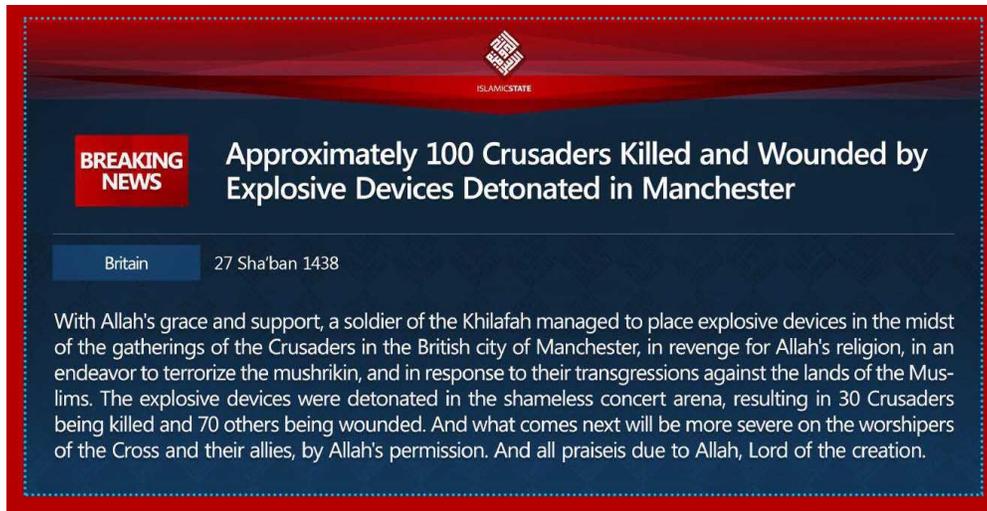
### Claim of responsibility

Less than 24 hours after the bombing, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Islamic State organization, via Amaq News Agency, claimed responsibility for the attack, stating:

...a soldier of the Khilafah managed to place explosive devices in the midst of the gatherings of the Crusaders in the British city of Manchester, in revenge for Allah's religion, in an endeavor to terrorize the mushrikin, and in response to their transgressions against the lands of the Muslims...



<sup>2</sup> Andrew Stuart, "Manchester Terror Attack: A timeline and map of events," *Manchester Evening News*, May 26, 2017, accessed May 27, 2017, <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/manchester-terror-attack-timeline-map-13097213>



It should be noted that unlike other IS inspired attacks, there are no indications that Abedi was a member of the organization. In most, if not all, previous attacks in Europe or the US (Paris 2015, Nice 2016, Brussels 2016, Orlando 2016, Paris 2017, London 2017, etc.), the attackers, whether acting alone or as part of a network, have always sworn allegiance to the Islamic State organization prior or during the attack. In this instance however, there was no such message or claim of responsibility by Abedi. Furthermore, unlike the London March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, ramming attack, as well as other European attack, there is no evidence to indicate direct contact between Abedi and other supporters of the IS (in the London attack the attacker had been in contact via Whatsapp with members of the organization). However, there are reports that Abedi had held a brief phone conversation with his younger brother, Hashim, and their mother in Libya, only minutes before detonating the explosive device at the Arena.<sup>3</sup> An explanation to the difference between this attack and previous attacks may be found in the fact that Abedi had returned to

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<sup>3</sup> Laura Smith-Spark and Hala Gorani, "Manchester suicide bomber spoke with brother 15 minutes before attack," *CNN*, May 26, 2017, accessed May 27, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/26/europe/manchester-terror-attack-uk/>

Manchester from Tripoli, Libya, only four days prior to the bombing at the Manchester Arena.<sup>4</sup> This could indicate that Abedi received guidance and instructions from IS elements in Libya, however, there is no information available to either support or dispute this hypothesis. Moreover, suicide bombing attacks are usual *modus operandi* of IS and associated groups.

### Device

According to official reports and leaks, the explosive device was carried by Abedi in a Karrimor backpack and detonated manually by him at the Manchester Arena. In terms of the explosives, it has been reported that Triacetone Triperoxide was likely used in the attacks, similar to the explosives used in both the November 13, 2015, attack in Paris, France, and the March 22, 2016, Brussels attack.<sup>5</sup> Triacetone Triperoxide, or TATP, is a highly unstable primary explosive, usually used as a detonator, yet easily prepared in a makeshift lab while using readily available materials.<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that the use of TATP was discussed on several occasions on top-tier Jihadi forums, including instructions on how to produce and store it. Medical reports made public, confirm that metal parts, such as screws, nuts, and ball bearings were used in the explosive device in order to enhance the lethality of the device.<sup>7</sup> After further investigation,

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<sup>4</sup> Frank Jordans and Kirsten Grieshaber, "Officials: Manchester bomber passed through Germany, Turkey," *Washington Post*, May 25, 2017, accessed May 27, 2017, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/officials-manchester-bomber-passed-through-germany-turkey/2017/05/25/cd4ed6ca-4163-11e7-b29f-f40ffced2ddb\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.479aad12995](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/officials-manchester-bomber-passed-through-germany-turkey/2017/05/25/cd4ed6ca-4163-11e7-b29f-f40ffced2ddb_story.html?utm_term=.479aad12995)

<sup>5</sup> C. J. Chivers, "Found at the Scene in Manchester: Shrapnel, a Backpack and a Battery," *The New York Times*, May 24, 2017, accessed May 27, 2017, [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/24/world/europe/manchester-arena-bomb-materials-photos.html?\\_r=2](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/24/world/europe/manchester-arena-bomb-materials-photos.html?_r=2)

<sup>6</sup> "Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP)," *GlobalSecurity.org*, accessed May 28, 2017, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/munitions/tatp.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Helen Pidd, "Manchester attack surgeon: 'The impact for patients is likely to be lifelong'," *The Guardian*, May 26, 2017, accessed May 27, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/may/26/manchester-attack-surgeon-the-impact-for-patients-is-likely-to-be-lifelong>

Great Manchester Police appealed to the public for more information regarding Abedi's whereabouts in the days leading to the bombing, specifically to the location of a blue suitcase suspected of being used to purchase the bomb making materials.<sup>8</sup>



Images released by Greater Manchester Police

#### Events leading to the attack

According to a time line published by Fox News, the Manchester Arena attack was a thoroughly planned and executed attack. While it is not known what events exactly triggered his commitment to an attack, or whether Salman Abedi received any guidance or help, it is apparent that he set out to conduct the bombing at least a year prior to the attack itself. Sometime in May

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<sup>8</sup> "Image released of Abedi carrying a suitcase," *Greater Manchester Police*, May 29, 2017, accessed May 29, 2017, <http://www.gmp.police.uk/live/nhoodv3.nsf/TriageWebsitePages/CB730191F43EC1F68025812F005B37F9?OpenDocument>

2016, Abedi opened a bank account which he later used to finance the attack.<sup>9</sup> However, it was not reported how much funds were in the account or where they came from. During the months of March and April, Abedi was seen visiting different hardware and garden supply stores in Manchester while moving around with the blue suitcase mentioned earlier. At around the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, it is believed that Abedi traveled to Tripoli, Libya, where he stayed with his parents and brother, only to return to Manchester via Germany on May 18. At this point of the investigation, it is unknown if he met with or received any instructions from IS related elements during his stay in Libya. Between May 19<sup>th</sup> and the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, it is believed that Abedi was busy shopping for last minute necessary items and assembling the explosive device at a location other than his apartment.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> “Manchester attack: Timeline of Salman Abedi's actions that led to concert terrorism,” *Fox News*, May 26, 2017, accessed May 28, 2017, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/05/26/manchester-attack-timeline-salman-abedis-actions-that-led-to-concert-terrorism.html>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.



## Government Response

Immediately after the attack, local and national law-enforcement officials began their investigation, not before deploying over 400 police officers to the Manchester area. On Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, UK's Prime Minister, Theresa May, convened a COBRA meeting during which it was decided to raise the UK security level from 'sever' to 'critical' (the alert level was reduced to 'severe' on May 25<sup>th</sup>).<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the UK government deployed soldiers to the streets of the UK's major cities in an attempt to thwart any further attacks.

During the ensuing investigation, 17 individuals have been arrested in connection with the bombing, including Abedi's sister and older brother. After a few days in custody, six of the

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<sup>11</sup> "UK terror alert level raised to 'critical'," *Sky News*, May 24, 2017, accessed May 29, 2017, <http://www.skynews.com.au/news/top-stories/2017/05/24/uk-terror-alert-level-raised-to-critical-.html>

suspects were released without charges, leaving 11 in custody, including his family members, on terrorism related suspicions.<sup>12</sup> At the time this report was written, it was not clear what role, if any, did the different suspects play in the planning and execution of the attack.

## The attacker

22-year-old Salman Ramadan Abedi has been identified by police as the suicide bomber who carried out the bombing at the Manchester Arena.<sup>13</sup> Abedi, born and raised in Manchester, comes from a family of Libyan dissidents who fled the Gaddafi regime back in the early 1990s.<sup>14</sup> Abedi also has three siblings; a sister, an older brother who lives in Manchester, and younger brother who lives in Tripoli, Libya, with their parents. It should be noted that both sister and older brother were arrested in Manchester, while his younger brother and father were arrested by Libyan forces in Tripoli. According to news reports, Abedi led a regular western life in Manchester until dropping out of Salford University in 2014. While living a Western lifestyle, it reported that his father, Ramdan Abedi, conducted the calls to prayer at the Didsbury mosque. There are also unconfirmed reports that Ramadan Abedi met and supported the radical Islamic cleric, Abu Qatada.<sup>15</sup>

While there is no information to indicate or support that Abedi was radicalized in the UK, there are reports of him developing extreme views after traveling to Libya several times over the

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<sup>12</sup> Mark Townshend, "Police arrest 17th person in Manchester bomb investigation," *The Guardian*, June 3, 2017, accessed June 3, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/03/manchester-bomb-attack-police-arrest-17th-man>

<sup>13</sup> "Manchester attack: Who was Salman Abedi?" *BBC*, May 23, 2017, accessed May 27, 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-40019135>

<sup>14</sup> Dominic Casciani, "Manchester attack: The Libya-jihad connection," *BBC*, May 24, 2017, accessed May 27, 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-40037830>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid "Manchester attack: Who was Salman Abedi?"

past few years. Although fleeing Gaddafi's Libya, the family maintained ties with friends back home and with other dissidents in the Manchester area. According to the BBC and the Guardian, Ramdan Abedi travelled back to Libya in 2011 in order to help fight the ousted Qaddafi regime alongside his old contacts and friends. It is also reported, yet not confirmed, that Salman himself traveled there with his father at the age of 16 where he received military training. At about the same time, after leaving school, it was reported that he started showing signs of becoming more religious.

While no clear evidence has been produced in regards to Salman Abedi's affiliation with the "Islamic State" terror group, it is believed that he has been in direct contact with them during his visits to Libya. According to *The New York Times*, Abedi met with members of the IS affiliated "Katibat al-Battar al-Libi" organization in both Tripoli and Sabratha. This group, while mostly training and operating in Libya has had previous successes in attacking Europe, and is believed to be behind the training and dispatching of several terrorist cells such as the one who carried out the November 2015 Paris attack.<sup>16</sup>

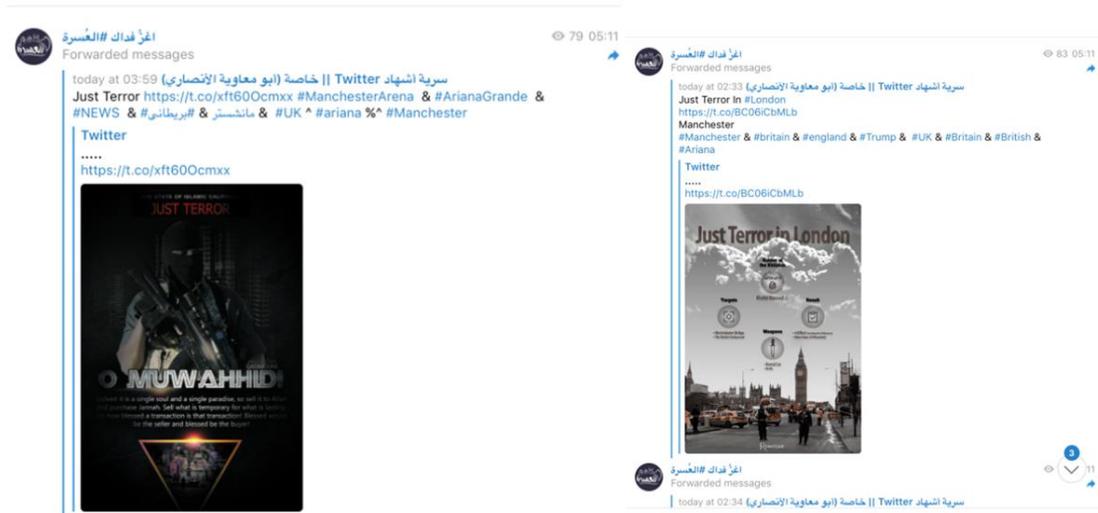
## **Social media discourse**

In the hours and days following the attack, social media Islamic State supporters, mostly on Twitter and Telegram, spread messages of encouragement and approval of the bombing. Amongst other, surfers used the hashtag phrase "#just\_terror (al-arhab el-adel in Arabic), a term

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<sup>16</sup> Rukmini Callimachi and Eric Schmitt, "Manchester Bomber Met With ISIS Unit in Libya, Officials Say," *The New York Times*, June 3, 2017, accessed June 3, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/03/world/middleeast/manchester-bombing-salman-abedi-islamic-state-libya.html>

which has been embedded in a section title of the Rumiya magazine, where it suggests different attack tactics. Furthermore, it should be noted that many uploaded posts displayed photos of injured children, allegedly injured in a-Raka during Royal Air Force bombing attacks, in attempt to portray the attack as revenge for Muslim blood.



### Telegram posts on the topic of “Just Terror” following the Manchester Arena bombing

The phrase “Kill them wherever you find them” – a slogan based on a commonly repeated Quranic verse in publications of the “Islamic State” - was also repeated in many online posts. Also posted online was a video of an English speaking masked individual who swears alliance to the leader of the “Islamic State” while emphasizing that the attack is a revenge for the British involvement I bombing Syria and Iraq.



**Video of masked-English- speaking individual in-support of the attack**

## **UK and terrorism**

For over a decade now, the UK has faced numerous radical Islam related terror attacks and plots. The first of these, and the deadliest one until the May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, bombing, was the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005, London bombing when four suicide bombers detonated their explosive devices on public transportation killing 52 and injuring over 700. Within three years of the 7/7 attacks, four major suicide bombing attacks were thwarted due to either poor execution, explosives malfunction, or luck.<sup>17</sup> Between May 2008 and May 2013, the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in London, no major incidents were recorded, yet several arrests were made. It is possible that the five years of relative quite can be attributed to the fact that Al-Qaeda was on the run and placed most of its effort on survival and regrouping, as well as an increase in intelligence gathering capabilities by western countries. The renewed terror attacks on British soil can and should be attributed to the rise of the Islamic State terrorist organization and the spread of extreme Islamic

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<sup>17</sup> "London Bridge attack: Timeline of British terror attacks," *BBC*, accessed June 4, 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-40013040>

ideology over the internet and social media. As of September 2016, the number of terrorist prisoners in UK prisons was 152, a sharp rise from the close to 80 imprisoned around the same time in 2011. At the same time, the number of terrorism related arrests by June 2016, was 222.<sup>18</sup> The sharp rise in convictions coincides with the rise in successful terror attacks.

## ICT experts



**Prof. Boaz Ganor; Founder & Executive Director, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Ronald Lauder Chair for Counter-Terrorism & Dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya**

### *Excerpts from “The Rationality of the Islamic Radical Suicide attack phenomenon ”<sup>19</sup>*

Suicide attacks are not a new phenomenon and they have exponentially increased over the past two decades. Many countries all over the world have been forced to contend with the phenomenon of suicide attacks. Radical Islamic activists chose this method for attacking civilian and military targets in various countries, such as Turkey, Chechnya, Iraq, Britain, USA, Jordan, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, India, etc.'. In addition, many more plots in other countries were exposed and thwarted before the attackers were able to carry out their plans.

Suicide attacks have clearly become the most dangerous modus operandi of modern

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<sup>18</sup> Alan Travis, “Number of terrorist prisoners in UK jails hits record high,” *The Guardian*, September 22, 2017, accessed June 2, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/22/number-of-terrorist-prisoners-uk-jails-hits-record-high-home-office-figures>

<sup>19</sup> Boaz Ganor, “The Rationality of the Islamic Radical Suicide attack phenomenon,” *The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism*, March 21, 2007, accessed May 31, 2017, <https://www.ict.org.il/Article/973/TheRationalityoftheIslamicRadicalSuicideattackphenomenon>

terrorism. In a sense, the suicide attack is the terrorists' "smart bomb". The suicide attacker is no more than a platform that carries the explosive charge to its target. However, this platform can think and, therefore, see to it that the explosive charge is detonated at the optimal location and timing so as to create maximum carnage and destruction.

*What are the benefits of the suicide attack for the terrorist organization?*

Suicide attacks are attractive to terrorist organizations, as they offer them a variety of advantages:

- The perpetrator's ability to control the time and location of the attack results in many casualties and causes extensive damage.
- Suicide attacks attract wide media coverage as an outcome of the extensive number of casualties. A suicide attack is a newsworthy event for the media, as it indicates a display of great determination and inclination for self-sacrifice on the part of the terrorists.
- Modern terrorism is a psychological warfare and suicide attacks intensify this psychological effect. The number of casualties, the perpetrator's determination and the media coverage of the attacks emphasizes the feeling of fear and anxiety within the targeted population. The random nature of the attack and the inability to identify and stop the attacker spreads a feeling of helplessness, which characterizes this special type of attack in comparison to other terrorists' modus operandi.
- The terrorist organizations enjoy another benefit as a result of the media coverage of the suicide attack. More than any other type of attack, the suicide attack draws the attention of the international public - the neutral spectators - and gives some legitimacy to the grievances of the perpetrators and the terrorist organizations.

- The suicide attack is usually technologically very primitive. It is cheap and easy to purchase the explosives or prepare the IED (Improvised explosive device) needed for the attack. The explosive device is very simple and basic knowledge of preparing an electrical circuit with a battery and an 'on and off' button is all that is needed.
- In a suicide attack, as soon as the terrorist has set off on his mission his success is virtually guaranteed. It is extremely difficult to foil suicide attacks once the terrorist is on his way to the target. Even if the security forces do succeed in stopping him before he reaches his intended target, he can still detonate the charge and cause damage.
- Planning and executing the escape route after a terror attack has occurred is usually one of the most complicated and problematic aspects of any terrorist attack. Suicide attacks require no escape plan.
- Since the perpetrator is killed during the course of the suicide attack, there is no fear of his being caught afterwards, being interrogated by the security forces, and passing on information liable to endanger other activists.

The cumulative benefits mentioned above explain why the suicide attack has become so popular these days and why terrorist organizations choose to adopt this modus operandi as their main tactic.

Considering all these factors that constitute a substantial incentive for the radical Islamic activist, as weird as it might sound to western ears, it is evident that committing a suicide attack is an outcome of a rational decision. Calculating the costs and benefits of the suicide attack, there are clearly much more benefits than costs in the eye of the beholder – the perpetrator. In summary, both the terrorist organizations leaders and the “shahids” themselves believe that

the suicide attack is a very beneficial method. When the entire community is showered for many years with ongoing educational, inciting and propaganda activity that praises “shahids” and calls for the fulfillment of a religious/national/social/personal commitment, carrying out a suicide attack becomes a very rational decision. Countering this phenomenon requires, therefore, understanding these considerations and finding ways to change the cost - benefit calculation of both the “shahids” themselves and the terrorist organizations that initiate this type of attack.



**Dr. Ely Karmon; Senior Research Scholar, ICT**

***The Libyan platform<sup>20</sup>***

The Manchester Arena suicide bombing killing at least 28 people, by jihadist Salman Abedi, British citizen of Libyan origin, and the horrendous slaughter of Coptic worshippers, mainly school children, in Minya, Egypt, have highlighted the growing threat from the ISIS bases in Libya.

Days before the attack, Abedi had returned from a visit to his radicalized family in Libya. Abedi's younger brother Hasham, 20, was detained in Tripoli on suspicion of links with ISIS. Abedi's father, Ramadan, has also been detained in Libya. Abedi travelled to the capital Tripoli and the town of Sabratha to meet operatives from Katibat al-Battar al-Libi, a cell linked to the ISIS November 2015 Paris attack. Among the terrorists who trained in Sabratha is the ISIS gunman who killed 30 British tourists on a beach in Sousse, Tunisia, in June 2015.

On May 26, 28 Coptic Christians have been killed and dozens more wounded, many

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<sup>20</sup> Ely Karmo, “New Trends in the Global Jihadi Offensive,” *The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism*, May 30, 2017, accessed May 31, 2017, <https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2021/new-trends-in-the-global-jihadi-offensive>

children, by armed men who attacked them while they were travelling to a monastery in Egypt's Minya province. In retaliation for the attack on the Copts, the Egyptian air force hit a training camp for jihadists in Derna, Libya, who were involved in the attack on Egyptian Christians.

Derna was known as a bastion of jihadists even before the 2011 uprising that toppled Muammar Gaddafi. After his fall, the al-Qaeda-linked Ansar al-Sharia spread its presence to Derna but by 2014 ISIS took control of the city.

Taking advantage of the dismembering of the Libyan state, the infighting between the multiple political forces and tribal militias, ISIS decided to expand its presence in the failed state, the third most important province of the caliphate. The group captured the important coastal city of Sirte, but lost it in December 2016. In January, the U.S. bombed two ISIS training camps south of Sirte and “external plotters” tied to terrorist planning in Europe, specifically the December 19, 2016, Christmas truck ramming people in the Berlin market, carried out by a Tunisian.

Tunisia, another central target of ISIS and other jihadist groups active in Libya, suffered in 2015 multiple attacks initiated in ISIS's training camp in Sabratha, as well as an attempted territorial takeover in Ben Gardane in early 2016.

The Libyan failed state, the presence of a host of jihadist groups allied with ISIS but also with the Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and its factions, networks of mafia smugglers sending tens of thousands of immigrants to Europe and the lack of a unified Western strategy in trying to solve the dire situation of the country, could transform it in the main immediate threat to the security of Europe.

## Analysis

The May 22<sup>nd</sup> Manchester Arena bombing attack should be considered as a well planned and executed attack. The planning phase, initiated at least a year prior to the attack with the opening of a dedicated bank account, included selecting a target venue, timing, and the method of operation, as well logistics while evading detection.

- Venue – Closed concert hall during a pop concert. While a football match usually hosts a larger audience (Old Trafford hosts over 75,000 guests while the Manchester Arena hold only 21,000), a football stadium is more of an open-air venue with a higher security presence. Furthermore, the location within the venue was also chosen as a choke point or a funnel where many concert goers must pass through.
- Timing –A music concert can be divided into three potential attack times and locations: Venue entrance prior to the concert, concert hall during the show, exit points at the end of the show. Salman Abedi choose the later of three which was when the crowds were leaving the concert hall. While large crowds also form at the entrances, there is also a larger security presence at that time looking outward for any potential threat. At the end of a concert however, security and law-enforcement are more concerned with crowd control and dispersal, thereby looking inwards.
- Method of operation – Detonating an explosive device inside a closed environment usually causes more damage than in an open-air location. However, due to elevated and enhanced security levels, placing an unattended backpack in a crowded location (Boston Marathon bombing), has a higher chance of being detected. Furthermore, a timed detonation does not guarantee the maximum number of casualties. A suicide bomber on the-other-hand, as mentioned above by Prof. Ganor, has the ability to choose a more

optimal time and location to detonate the explosive device, as did Abedi.

- Logistics – Once committed to the operation, Abedi took actions to further its success. Over the course of several months leading to the attack, Abedi made several shopping runs to different local hardware stores where he was able to purchase the bomb making material. By going to different stores and carrying a suitcase to place the items inside, Abedi managed to conceal his intentions while not raising suspicion. Furthermore, the dual purpose of the bomb making materials, make them readily available for purchase to anyone.

The ease of freedom of movement was also a contributing factor in the success of the bombing attack. Abedi's family visits to post Qaddafi era Libya gave him access to extreme elements and possible training facilities while also making him susceptible to radicalization. Although there is no clear evidence that he actually participated in any training camp (all available information cannot be confirmed), his presence alone in the vicinity of hostilities and hardship in Libya could have served as a radicalizing factor. If, however, Abedi was radicalized during his stays in Libya and did belong to an "Islamic State" affiliated group, the fact that he could travel back and forth between the UK and Libya, contributed to the planning, guiding, and execution of the attack.

In light of the available information, a few questions must be asked. If there was information on some of Salman Abedi's activities in Libya, why was he not on any no-fly-list? Why was he not investigated by UK security forces? If his family moved back from Manchester to Libya in 2011 while most others were trying to escape, why were no flags raised? On the issue of venue security, were and are security personal trained to look out for suspicious behavior? Was it possible to detect intelligence gathering on the venue?