

# Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

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**This is just one picture of Europe’s descent into mayhem, below. There is probably a story for every nation over there on how terror is destroying the West, and rapidly.**

## Europe: Let's Self-destruct!

by Judith Bergman November 25, 2016 at 5:00 am  
gatestoneinstitute.org

- A reasonable question that many Europeans might ask would be whether it is not perhaps time to review priorities?
- Perhaps the time has come to look at whether it remains worth it, in terms of the potential loss of human life, to remain party to the 1961 Convention, which would prohibit a country from stripping a returning ISIS fighter of his citizenship in order to prevent him from entering the country?
- The terrorist as poor, traumatized victim who needs help seems to be a recurring theme among European politicians. But what about the rights of the poor, traumatized citizens who elected these politicians?

Roughly 30,000 foreign and European Islamic State fighters from around 100 different countries, who have gone to Syria, Iraq and Libya, could spread across the continent once the terror group is crushed in its Iraqi stronghold, warned Karin von Hippel, director-general of the UK military think tank, Royal United Services Institute, speaking to the Express on October 26:

"I think once they lose territory in Iraq and Syria and probably Libya... they will likely go back to a more insurgent style operation versus a terrorist group that wants to try and hold onto territory... There has been about 30,000 foreign fighters that have gone in from about 100 countries to join. Not all of them have joined ISIS, some have joined al-Qaeda, Kurds, and other groups, but the vast majority have gone to join ISIS. These people will disperse. Some of them have already been captured or killed but many will disperse and they'll go to European countries...They may not go back to where they came from and that is definitely keeping security forces up at night in many, many countries".

Perhaps these scenarios are really keeping security forces up at night in many countries. Judging by the continued influx of predominantly young, male migrants of fighting age into Europe, however, one might be excused for thinking that European politicians themselves are not losing any sleep over potential new terrorist attacks.

According to a report by Radio Sweden, for example:

"Around 140 Swedes have so far returned after having joined the violent groups in Syria and Iraq. Now several municipalities are preparing to work with those who want to defect. This could include offering practical support to defectors."

The municipality of Lund has dealt with this issue, and Malmö, Borlänge and Örebro have similar views. As Radio Sweden reports:

"Lund's conclusion is that defectors from violent extremist groups should be handled like defectors from other environments, such as organized crime. After an investigation of the person's needs, the municipality can help with housing, employment or livelihood."

According to Sweden's "national coordinator against violent extremism," Christoffer Carlsson:

"...You need to be able to reintegrate into the job market, you may need a driver's license, debt settlement and shelter. When people leave, they want to leave for something else, but they do not have the resources for it, so it is difficult for them to realize their plan. If they do not receive support, the risk is great that they will be unable to leave the extremist environment, but instead fall back into it."

Anna Sjöstrand, Lund's municipal coordinator against violent extremism, says that people who have served their penalty should all have support. Last year, the Municipality of Örebro received criticism for offering an internship to a young man who returned after having been in Syria.

"There may be such criticism, but for me it is difficult to think along those lines. They get the same help as others who seek help from us. We cannot say that because you made a wrong choice, you have no right to come back and live in our society," says Anna Sjöstrand.

According to Sweden Radio, several of the municipalities stress that people who commit crimes should be sentenced and serve their penalties before they can receive support. According to Amir Rostami, who works with the national coordinator against violent extremism:

"If you are suspected of a crime, the investigation of the crime always comes first. But as long as there is no suspicion of a crime, then it is in our own interest to help those that come out of this extremist environment. The consequences for society are quite large if you do not."

So, in Sjöstrand's words, travelling to Syria and Iraq to join ISIS, a bestial Islamic terrorist organization with its sexual enslavement of women and children, rapes, brutal murders of Christians, Yazidis, and other Muslims is just "a wrong choice." You know, similar to embezzling money or getting into a drunken brawl at a bar, just ordinary garden-variety crime, which should not intervene with your "right to come back and live in our society". In other words, it seems to support the standard European idea that the terrorist is the victim, not the innocent people he is out to maim, rape, and kill.

According to the Swedish view, burning Christians and Yazidis alive, gang-raping and murdering women and children, and other such "wrong choices" should not get into the way of one's "rights." It also seems to ignore the rights of members of the peaceful society who are vulnerable to being attacked. It would be logical to posit that traveling for the express purpose of joining a terrorist organization such as ISIS, which has as its explicit goal the destruction of Western nations such as Sweden, should actually lead to the forfeiture of the "right to come back and live in our society" -- especially as those former ISIS fighters evidently do not consider Swedish society "their society."

Another word that comes to mind is treason. But not for Sweden, such logical moral and political choices. Better to have another go at politically correct policies, doomed to failure, at the expense of the security (and taxpayer money) of law-abiding Swedish citizens, whose rights to live without fear of violent assault, rape and terrorism clearly ceased to matter to Swedish authorities a long time ago.

This hapless attitude towards ISIS increasingly resembles criminal negligence on the part of Swedish authorities. It was recently reported that Swedish police received a complaint of incitement to racial hatred, after an unnamed Syrian-born 23-year-old used a picture of the ISIS flag as a profile picture on social media. Prosecutor Gisela Sjövall decided not to pursue legal action against the man. The reason, according to Sjövall?

"IS expresses every kind of disrespect; it is against everyone except those who belong to IS itself. There is the dilemma, it [offends] too big a group... You could say that merely waving a flag of IS in the current situation cannot be considered hate speech. It is not an expression of disrespect towards any [particular] ethnic group. It has been said there could possibly be some form of incitement, that IS urges others to commit criminal acts such as murder, but that is not the case."

Since ISIS hates absolutely everybody, according to Swedish law they can apparently engage in as much hate speech as their hearts desire. The terrorists, who are vying for a world-dominating caliphate, must be laughing their heads off.

Sjövall added that because the Nazi swastika is intrinsically linked to inciting anti-Semitism, this contravenes Swedish laws, and that maybe the ISIS flag would be considered as contravening Swedish law in 10 years.

At the rate that Swedish society is self-destructing, there may not even be much of Sweden to speak of 10 years from now.

On June 7, 2016, it was reported that British citizen Grace "Khadija" Dare had brought her 4-year-old son, Isa Dare, to live in Sweden, in order to benefit from free health care. In February, the boy was featured in an ISIS video, blowing up four prisoners in a car. The boy's father, a jihadist with Swedish citizenship, was killed fighting for ISIS.

In neighboring Denmark, in March 2015, a Danish MP for the Social Democrats, Trine Bramsen, said about returning ISIS fighters:

"Some constitute a danger or can become dangerous. Others need help. We have actually seen that many of those who come home have experienced such horrors that they need psychological help".

The terrorist as poor, traumatized victim who needs help seems to be a recurring theme among European politicians. But what about the rights of the poor, traumatized citizens who elected these politicians?

Denmark happens to be the European country with the most ISIS fighters returning from Syria, according to a report released in April by the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism in The Hague. The report shows that 50% of the people who left Denmark to fight with ISIS in Syria have returned to Denmark. The UK is second, with 48%, and then come Germany (33%), Sweden (29%), France (27%), and Austria (26%).

In Denmark, four Syrian ISIS fighters were arrested in April when they returned from Syria.

The head of the Strategic Institute of the Defense Academy in Denmark, Anja Dalgaard-Nielsen, told a Danish newspaper in April that there are not enough resources to monitor all returning ISIS fighters and thereby ensure their arrest, adding:

"But then again, not all [ISIS fighters] are identical. Some will come home and be a threat to society, whereas others will return disillusioned. If we treat everyone in the same manner, we risk pushing some of those who are in doubt even further in. If someone returns and it cannot be proven that he has committed crimes and if he, besides that, is disillusioned, then he should get help to get out."

How do you determine with certainty that someone is "disillusioned," when he could in fact be a ticking bomb waiting to commit terror?

In Denmark, the authorities decided on a prohibition to travel to Syria to join ISIS. That, however, does not solve the problem of what to do with the returning ISIS fighters. It also does not do much to prevent those potential ISIS fighters who have been frustrated in their efforts to join ISIS, from unleashing their terror on European soil instead -- as ISIS has in fact commanded them to do.

Several countries, including the United Kingdom and Australia, have considered revoking the citizenship of returning ISIS fighters, thereby preventing them from returning. This is certainly feasible in those cases where the person in question has dual citizenship. Political obstacles aside, however, one of the main legal obstacles to countries taking this path is the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, which prohibits governments from revoking a person's nationality if it leaves them stateless.

A reasonable question that many Europeans might ask would be whether it is not perhaps time to review priorities? Perhaps the time has come to look at whether it remains worth it, in terms of the potential loss of human life, to remain party to the 1961 Convention, which would prohibit a country from stripping a returning ISIS fighter of his citizenship in order to prevent him from entering the country?

Presumably, the European people care more about staying alive than the intricacies of international law. When will European leaders mobilize the political will to act?

## Palestinians, Arab World Celebrate, Take Credit for Israeli Fires With #IsraellsBurning Hashtag

"The welcome acts of arson are a part of the Palestinian resistance against the Zionist entity."

11.25.16     [truthrevolt.org](http://truthrevolt.org)

Palestinians and Arabs across the Middle East are celebrating as Israel struggles for the third day in a row to control dozens of fires that have sprung up between the center and the north of the country, according to The Algemeiner.

Posts written under the hashtag #IsraellsBurning are proliferating on Twitter, in which Arabs attack the Jewish state and rejoice about the blazes. They are encouraging Palestinians to set more fires.

"The welcome acts of arson are a part of the Palestinian resistance against the Zionist entity," wrote Twitter user nrg.

"The fire is burning inside the settlements in occupied Haifa," wrote another.

"It's God's punishment," declared a third.

"After a long and hard work day," wrote one more, "#israelisburning will give me an exceptional weekend , let's party!!!!"

"Finally they got what they did to Palestinians," exclaimed yet another. "Now y'all feel how our hearts burned when you killed my brothers & sisters #israelisburning."

"Even the lands and the trees says Get out," wrote another.

Ofir Gendelman, Arab media spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, tweeted in response: "Arabs & Palestinians on social media rejoice over the wildfires that have erupted across Israel. Despicable fanatic hatred."

He quoted Netanyahu as saying: "Every fire that is caused by arson or incitement to arson is an act of terrorism."

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan announced that Israel will prosecute anyone caught celebrating the blazes on social media. Arsonists are estimated to be responsible for at least 60 percent of the fires.

Israel Police Commissioner Roni Alsheikh said that the first fire, which ignited on Tuesday, may have been the result of negligence. It spread quickly because of the unseasonably hot, dry and windy weather. But now there appears to be an intentional, nationalistically motivated effort to keep the blazes going, reports The Algemeiner -- "arson terrorism."

Israeli security authorities said they will investigate to determine whether the arson attacks were organized or are the work of "lone wolves" inspired by social media incitement. Meanwhile the Palestinian Authority apparently has announced that it would like to help extinguish the fires.

## U.K. Passes Law Creating "Totalitarian-style" Surveillance State

Written by Michael Tennant

Last Thursday, the British parliament passed a bill granting the government "perhaps the most extreme spying powers in the developed world," according to the U.K. Independent. The bill will, among other things, require Internet service providers to retain logs of their customers' Web usage for up to a year and make them available to government agencies upon request. It will also force technology companies to make electronic devices less secure so that agencies can hack into them.

"The UK has just legalized the most extreme surveillance in the history of western democracy," tweeted National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden. "It goes farther than many autocracies."

The Investigatory Powers Act, aptly dubbed the "Snooper's Charter" by critics, is the latest version of a bill that the government has been trying to pass for years. A previous version, the Communications Data Bill, was prevented from becoming law in 2013. As usual, however, a government seeking greater power over the people it allegedly serves wouldn't take no for an answer. Prime Minister Theresa May reintroduced the bill a year ago when she was Home Secretary, and it passed both houses of Parliament with, as the Guardian put it, "only token resistance."

"In 20 years that I've been dealing with surveillance policy in this country I have never seen a more

docile parliament,” Gus Hosein, executive director of the nonprofit Privacy International, told the Financial Times.

It’s enough to make one wonder what the intelligence agencies — which, according to the Guardian, just last month were found to have been “unlawfully collecting massive volumes of confidential personal data without proper oversight for 17 years” — have on these lawmakers. They were, after all, concerned enough to add an amendment to the bill protecting themselves from the new intrusions they are foisting on their fellow citizens.

The New Statesman summarized the most horrifying of the bill’s provisions, saying it will:

Force your Internet Service Provider to keep your Internet Connection Record (ICR) — a list of services and websites you use and when — for 12 months.

Oblige communications companies to retain your communications, hand them over when served with a notice, and remove encryption when requested.

Create new rules about who can intercept your communications, i.e. who can read your messages.

Explicitly legalize intelligence agencies, law enforcement and the armed forces interfering with (i.e. hacking) electronic equipment — for example, by covertly downloading the contents of your phone or remotely accessing your computer.

Allow security and intelligence agencies to use these powers in bulk to obtain large numbers of data about a large number of people.

Create warrants for authorities to examine “Bulk Data Sets” — basically, a lot of people’s personal information — such as medical records and tax histories.

Although the government claims the bill is needed to combat terrorism — the last refuge of the 21st-century scoundrel — it’s not hard to see how such powers could be abused. The Financial Times wrote that “dozens of public organizations and departments” — including “the Food Standards Agency and the Gambling Commission” — “will be able to access your communications, in some cases without a warrant.” Intelligence agencies will be free to scrutinize data from “an unlimited number of people who are not suspected of any criminal activity,” the paper added.

“All of us want to be safe, and protected from terrorists and the like — but the evidence that these powers are all needed is thin indeed,” observed Julian Huppert, a former member of Parliament who helped kill the 2013 bill. “However, the cost to all of our privacy is huge.” The bill, he declared, “should terrify all of us.”

Then there’s the danger from forcing tech companies to create “back doors” by which governments can hack into electronic devices. These companies, in fact, were among the few vociferous opponents of the bill, with Apple telling Parliament, “A key left under the doormat would not just be there for the good guys. The bad guys would find it, too.” What’s more, the bill allows U.K. agencies to hack into devices all over the world, not just within their own jurisdiction.

“The passage of the Snoopers’ Charter through Parliament is a sad day for British liberty,” Bella Sankey, policy director for the U.K. civil-liberties group Liberty, said in a statement. “Under the guise of counter-terrorism, the state has achieved totalitarian-style surveillance powers — the most intrusive system of any democracy in human history. It has the ability to indiscriminately hack, intercept, record,

and monitor the communications and internet use of the entire population.”

Defenders of the bill claim that numerous safeguards were added to protect individuals’ privacy. Huppert, however, suggested that only “a tiny handful of cosmetic changes were made” to the bill — “most infamously, inserting the word ‘privacy’ into the title of one section, rather than actually doing something to support privacy.” The Independent reported that the bill contains “measures that are still undefined and so could be used by the government to force companies to do almost anything.” And the New Statesman pointed out that while the alleged safeguards sound good, “there are endless problems in practice,” such as “vague” requirements for obtaining a warrant that “could be stretched to rubber-stamp a lot of dubious requests.”

In short, the nation that gave the world George Orwell is now erecting Big Brother yet paradoxically expecting to remain a free country. But as Liberty policy officer Silkie Carlo asked, “Has any country in history given itself such extensive surveillance powers and remained a rights-respecting democracy?”

## CNN apologizes for banner questioning ‘whether Jews are people’

Blurb quoting white supremacist leader ‘was poor judgment and we very much regret it and apologize’  
BY JTA November 22, 2016

A CNN banner about the alt-right movement, during an airing of "The Lead," November 21, 2016. (Maia Efrem via JTA)A CNN banner about the alt-right movement, during an airing of "The Lead," November 21, 2016.



CNN apologized for a banner flashed onscreen during a segment on white supremacist groups which read, “Alt-right founder questions whether Jews are people.”

The segment was aired Monday on “The Lead,” which was being guest-hosted by Jim Sciutto.

On Tuesday, CNN said in a statement concerning the banner, known as a chyron: “It was poor judgment and we very much regret it and apologize.”

The Monday segment concerned statements made over the weekend by Richard Spencer at an event of his white supremacist think tank National Policy Institute. Spencer suggested that the news media had been critical of presidential candidate Donald Trump in order to protect Jewish interests. “One wonders if these people are people at all, or instead soulless golem,” Spencer said.

Sciutto referred to Spencer’s remarks as “hate-filled garbage,” and the rest of the panel also expressed disgust after seeing a clip of Spencer’s remarks.

The Lead’s regular host, Jake Tapper, who was on vacation, criticized the chyron in several tweets.

He also tweeted in response to a complaint that the alt-right was given a platform on CNN: “they were not given a platform. The chyron was, however, unacceptable and will not happen again.”