

# Terrorism Index in the Arab Region during 2022



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## Executive Summary

The **Terrorism Index in the Arab Region** report showed a drop in the rate of terrorist operations during 2022, compared to the same number of operations in 2021. Consequently, the rate of deaths and injuries resulting from these attacks increased, as civilians became vulnerable to indiscriminate attacks that lead to their killing, homelessness, and internal displacement, impacting a set of basic human rights. Attacks against civilians escalated in conflict areas in Arab countries such as: (Somalia, Syria, and Yemen), as well as the countries going through critical transitional stages such as Iraq. The Houthis also continued to threaten the neighboring countries of Saudi Arabia and the UAE by expanding the use of unmanned aircraft and ballistic missiles. During 2022, some armed groups became active in the Arab region alongside Daesh in Iraq and the Levant such as the Houthis in Yemen and the Somali Youth Movement in Somalia. However, other groups such as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Syria disappeared from the scene, with only five operations claimed or attributed to them throughout 2022. Daesh and the Somali Youth Movement remained the most active terrorist groups in the Arab region during 2022. According to Maat, the organization adopted 147 terrorist operations, which is 25.5% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region in 2022, and Daesh is responsible for 30% of the total terrorism-related deaths committed in the Arab region during the period covered by the report. Although Daesh has lost some of its leaders in recent years, the Organization remains able to continue, plan and carry out terrorist operations, especially in rural areas in Iraq and on the outskirts of urban cities and the capital, Baghdad, and in the Syrian Badia region, using guerrilla warfare tactics. The Somali youth movement comes after Daesh in terms of the number of terrorist operations in the Arab region throughout 2022. Maat documented 140 terrorist operations claimed by the Somali youth movement, which is 24.3% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region for the year 2022, and the movement is responsible for the death of 35% of the total deaths in the Arab region. Daesh launches its hit-and-run operations by striking military points and army checkpoints in Iraq and Syria, damaging military machinery and equipment, and undermining infrastructure projects such as power plants and power towers, in addition to attacking oil fields, with such practices becoming evident in Syria.

2022 witnessed an accelerated use of drones, which are emerging technologies that can be used to ward off terrorism. On the contrary, this technology access to terrorist groups represents a challenge to Arab national security and a direct threat



thereto. The Yemeni Houthi groups is heavily using these drones for offensive purposes against neighboring countries, in contravention of the principle of good neighborliness contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and in clear and explicit defiance of the rules of international humanitarian law. Daesh in Syria and Iraq, and Al-Shabaab in Somalia used these planes for reconnaissance and information-gathering purposes, and in small cases to carry explosives. The acquisition of more drones by these groups may pose a threat to the national state, and result in heavy losses among civilians, civilian objects, and economic facilities.

Somalia topped the terrorism index in the Arab region, as Maat documented the adoption of 170 operations by terrorist groups in Somalia in 2022. Moreover, Somalia came first in the Arab region, in terms of the number of terrorism-related deaths and injuries, with 660 dead and 613 injured in the Arab region in 2022. Iraq came second on the terrorism index, with 151 terrorist operations carried out on its territories. Morocco, Lebanon and Djibouti came as the least Arab countries exposed to terrorist operations, with one terrorist operation in each, which is only 0.17% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region. It is noteworthy that more than 46% of the total operations in the Maghreb region were carried out in Libya alone, along with 50% in Tunisia and Algeria, while no operations were carried out in Mauritania. In total, 7 Arab countries in 2022 maintained their record free of any terrorist operations, thanks to the anti-terrorism efforts made by the security services and institutions in a number of countries in the region, the pre-emptive strikes to prevent terrorism, the tight policies to combat terrorism financing, in addition to the adoption of anti-terrorism comprehensive approaches by some states, and the intellectual rehabilitation of extremists, considering the ideological dimension as the main catalyst for extremism and terrorism. Preventing extremism has become a pivotal and indispensable dimension in the policies of those countries, along with these countries' application of the Four Pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the adoption of a dual strategy to contain terrorism by arresting parties involved and bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice, which, at the same time, addressing the economic and social causes behind terrorism. However, the lack of respect for human rights in the context of combating terrorism may contribute to a slowdown in its defeat, and cause renewed grievances that terrorists may be able to exploit for recruitment and fuel ethnic and sectarian divisions.

## **The Report Provides a Set of Recommendations, Topped by the Following:**

- Consider amending the third paragraph of Article 1 of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism to identify terrorist attacks in which drones are used as a terrorist crime;
- Urging the countries that have not yet ratified the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism to complete the ratification procedures and deposit the ratification documents with the Secretary General of the Arab League;
- Enhancing intelligence cooperation between Arab countries and foreign powers in a way that guarantees taking preemptive steps to limit the occurrence of terrorist attacks;
- Imposing strict international control over the movement of international funding provided to terrorist groups in a way that enables these groups to implement their subversive plans;
- Imposing strict international control over the movement of weapons and equipment used by these organizations in carrying out their terrorist acts against civilians and military personnel in Arab countries;
- Working on promoting religious tolerance and combating hate speech, investing in programs for the rights of women and religious minorities, as well as providing social services to eligible groups, all of which are solutions that limit the conditions that promote terrorism;
- Expanding scientific and academic studies that identify the causes of extremism and terrorism, applying their results on the ground, revising educational curricula, and working on developing tools to monitor hate speech in Arab countries;
- Working to promote the principles of peaceful dialogue in order to heal the rift between the warring tribes in Sudan, especially in Darfur, and to take the necessary measures to ensure that it does not slide into new civil wars, in which civilians and soldiers alike will be victims;
- Participating in global counter-terrorism forums to allow the exchange of expertise, information and good experiences, and to enhance the ability of countries to curb terrorism.

## Why the Terrorism Index in the Arab Region?

Maat has always been addressing the terrorism phenomenon in the Arab region as a part of the Arab Report it issues annually. However, starting of 2021, Maat found a need to develop an indicator of terrorism in the Arab region separately. Within the above framework, Maat issued successively quarterly reports on terrorism in the Arab region; it chose the Arab region for several reasons: First: Although Arab countries constitute only 5% of the world's population, they were affected by more than 45% of terrorist attacks before 2020. Second: The spread of terrorism in the conflict areas in the Arab countries, external interventions from third countries motivated armed groups to undermine governance. The chaos created by these conflicts allows terrorism to operate without these countries' ability to limit or confront it to reduce or contribute to mitigating it and its repercussions at all levels. Third: The scarcity of previous indicators and literature that shed light on terrorism in the Arab region was an additional incentive for Maat to issue this indicator, hoping that this effort would serve as a database and a reliable reference for all scholars, researchers, and think tanks concerned with studying this phenomenon and for decision-makers in Arab countries.

Maat decided to issue this Indicator on a quarter basis along with the comprehensive annual report on terrorism in the Arab region. It monitors and completes documentation of terrorist operations in the Arab region and analyzes them in the light of the statistics that Maat checks in different ways and what happens to this phenomenon in terms of fundamental changes. Maat attempts to dismantle the factors that contributed to the exacerbation of terrorist operations in an Arab country and their extinction in another Arab country. Finally, the main challenges that constitute an obstacle against confronting terrorism in the Arab region in a way that makes this region enjoy stability at all levels and prevents the bloodshed of more civilians and soldiers.

### **The Concept of Terrorism upon which the Report is Built:**

No comprehensive, unified definition of terrorism at the international level has yet been agreed upon, but in this report, we will rely on the multiple definitions put by United Nations bodies, stipulated in the General Assembly Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (Resolution 69/40), as well as Security Council Resolution 1566, and the items included in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in which terrorism is defined as "Criminal acts, including acts committed against civilians, intended or calculated to cause death or serious bodily

injury, or the taking of hostages with the intent to Creating a state of terror among the general public or in a group of persons or specific persons, or intimidating the population, or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.”

## Key Findings

- In 2022, the Arab region witnessed a decrease in the rate of terrorist operations by 577 terrorist operations, compared to operations in 2021, which exceeded 904 terrorist operations that were monitored by Maat for the year 2021.
- 7 Arab countries have had their countries free of terrorist operations, armed conflicts; political unrest; external interventions, and the loss of territorial control by national armies to non-state armed groups.
- The percentage of deaths resulting from terrorist operations increased in the Arab region in 2022, as more than 1,566 people were killed, between military and civilians. More than half of the deaths occurred in three Arab countries: Somalia, Syria, and Iraq, where the percentage of deaths in the three countries combined was 71.4% of the total number of deaths due to terrorist operations. While 2021 witnessed the death of 1,799 people due to terrorist operations, which means that the year 2022 has fewer deaths from terrorist operations in the Arab region than the year 2021.
- Daesh and its affiliated groups in Syria and Iraq, Al-Shabab Movement in Somalia, the Houthis in Yemen, and Al-Qaeda were the most active terrorist groups in the Arab region in 2022, as these groups claimed 405 terrorist operations, which is 70.2% of the total operations, in the Arab region in 2022, and they are also responsible for the largest proportion of deaths in Arab countries as a result of terrorism in 2022.
- The weapons that were used in a wide range of terrorist attacks in 2022 were: firearms, improvised explosive devices, car bombings, and suicide attacks with explosive belts. Terrorist groups also used the ambush tactic in a wide range of attacks, specifically in Syria and Iraq, and they focused these ambushes targeted on the army forces at a greater rate than the police forces.
- Despite measures to combat the financing of terrorism, the most active terrorist groups in the Arab countries during 2022 have retained financial capacity and diversification of income sources that make them able to plan and carry out operations, recruit other individuals to fight and pay mercenary



salaries, and these groups have used the Internet as an effective tool to achieve this purpose. Relying on the call for the caliphate to reach this goal, however, the ability of terrorist groups in the Arab region to recruit remained limited in 2022, with the exception of the Houthis, who began recruiting more individuals in Yemen using the policy of intimidation and the economic destitution of the majority of the population in the areas under their control in northern Yemen.

## Preamble

Terrorism poses a major threat to the military and civilians alike in the Arab region. Terrorist groups have shown their ability to withstand and adapt, despite their recent losses of a wide range of lands that they controlled, which affected the leaders of the first ranks, especially in Daesh Organization operating in Iraq and Syria. Terrorism has a devastating impact on the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as it undermines the stability of governments, exposes peace and security to various and asymmetric risks, threatens social, economic and cultural development, delays the achievement of sustainable development goals, and turns the most important pledge in the 2030 Agenda, which stipulates that no one should be left behind ineffective. Terrorism undermines all efforts to achieve democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and has a disproportionate impact on certain groups such as women, children and the elderly. Terrorism has spread in the Arab region during the year 2022, especially in countries where armed conflicts still exist. Terrorist attacks are responsible for the most casualties in countries of armed conflicts by an estimated six times compared to stable countries, and the control of some armed groups over lands by force of arms has exacerbated the existence of terrorism in these countries, which fragility has doubled. Terrorism remains the main threat in the Arab countries that are going through faltering transitional stages, while at the same time, it is rife with armed militias loyal to external and regional parties, which undermines the stability and security of these countries. It is confirmed that terrorism arises in periods of transition due to political, economic or social unrest, taking advantage of the fragility of states in these periods.

Terrorist groups claimed responsibility for about 577 operations in the Arab region in 2022. 1,566 civilians and military personnel, including women and children, were killed, while about 1,522 civilians and military personnel were injured as a direct cause of the terrorist attacks, which escalated in the last quarter of the period covered

by the report. However, in 2022, counter-terrorism efforts resulted in the arrest of the leadership of the first ranks of Daesh, other leaders were neutralized in pre-emptive strikes, and a range of restrictions was imposed on counter-terrorism and financing terrorism. However, these efforts have not been generalized in all Arab countries. Some countries rejected international and regional participation in efforts to combat terrorism. Out of 84 countries that are members of the Global Coalition against Daesh, 10 Arab countries are still not members of this Global Coalition, thus partner countries are able to fend off the dangers of Daesh and combat its financing, in addition to harmonizing their laws with Security Council Resolution No. 2178, which aims to impose restrictions on travel to countries such as Syria and Iraq, for example, which may succeed in reducing terrorism.

The exchange of information or bilateral coordination between Arab countries in combating terrorism remain very poor, which necessitates the need to strengthen cooperation between Arab countries to launch initiatives aimed at promoting opportunities for peaceful coexistence and combating hate speech. There is a consensus that the continuation of armed conflicts perpetuates and stimulates terrorism and poses a threat to civilians and the military alike. Despite the efforts to combat terrorism and the proactive operations that are announced to curtail terrorism and neutralize its leaders in a wide range of Arab countries, extremist groups, especially Daesh and the Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia and the Houthi militia in Yemen, have been able to maneuver through the violence of the security forces, and these groups are still able to recruit young people and children, and sometimes women, especially through the Internet, and to search for new sources of financing that give it the ability to adapt its situation and withstand for a longer period to launch new attacks.

Maat has noted that the high rate of terrorist operations in 2021 and 2022 is mainly due to a wide range of reasons, including the inability of national armies in conflict areas to resolve the conflict against non-state actors. The absence of political consensus among all the actors in the transitional countries; external interventions in Arab countries and support for armed militias operating outside the scope of the state; stimulating hate speech and promoting sectarianism as a substitute for citizenship in other countries has made it a fertile ground for carrying out additional terrorist operations. Other variables have contributed to the slowdown in warding off terrorism, including the weakness or absence of strong central governments; internal conflicts fueled by external interventions; sectarian divisions; as well as social and

economic inequalities, poverty, and unemployment, especially among young people, which calls for addressing these conditions that produce terrorism and the need for a comprehensive understanding of the factors behind the transformation of extremism into terrorism.

While Daesh continued, for the fourth year in a row, to adopt the guerrilla warfare tactic, and it showed only minimal attempts to establish tight and solid control over the lands. In its weekly newspaper, entitled Al-Naba, Daesh announced its strategy implemented from 2021 to this moment, which distinguished between the stage of building the state or what is known as empowerment and between the guerrilla war phase, since the collapse of the alleged caliphate in 2019, it has made a decision to return to the guerrilla warfare tactic, through which the Organization aims to inflict the greatest damage on the security forces in Syria and Iraq, and then seize any opportunity to control the lands, but only after it has to neutralize security forces, but may keep Daesh ambitions unachievable at least in 2023, given the Organization's status and capabilities during the reporting period.

Terrorism continued to occupy the interest of different Arab governments, due to the loss of lives it causes, the destruction of public and private facilities, and the threat to society in all its categories by spreading fear and terror, and there is still an urgent need to achieve a balance between government measures to combat terrorism, which is sometimes arbitrary, and the right of the state to defeat terrorism and dry up its sources.

Before delving deep into the report, it should be noted that there is no comprehensive, unified definition of terrorism, as it evolves and varies according to the country, the geographical region, as well as the political and social context of countries, which was expressed by Kalliopi Koufa; rapporteur of the Sub-Committee on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in her report on terrorism submitted to the Human Rights Committee, when she explained that the issue of defining a unified definition of terrorism is a major point of controversy for the international community. In the absence of an agreed-upon definition of what constitutes terrorism, we concluded that terrorist operations that we monitored and documented according to the definition closest to the definition that came in the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, which defined terrorism in the first paragraph of Article 1; as every act or threat of violence, whatever its motives or purposes, that takes place in the implementation of an individual or collective criminal project and aims to sow terror among people or frighten them by harming them or

endangering their lives or security or causing damage to the environment or to one of the public or private facilities or property or occupying or seizing it, or endangering one of the national resources. We also found that as a result of the activity of non-state actors in the Arab region and as the primary cause of terrorist operations, the reference to the definition of terrorism included in the Global Terrorism Database, as “the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation”.

## Report Methodology

The Report is based on a monitoring mechanism for all terrorist acts published in the local and international media and newspapers in the Arab countries during the third quarter of 2022. It uses a methodology for monitoring and analyzing the impact of variables on the terrorist phenomenon to derive new hypotheses and unbiased and logical conclusions about terrorism. It also predicts the challenges that stand as an obstacle to confronting terrorism, ensures an accurate understanding of the phenomenon, and provides a solid diagnosis.

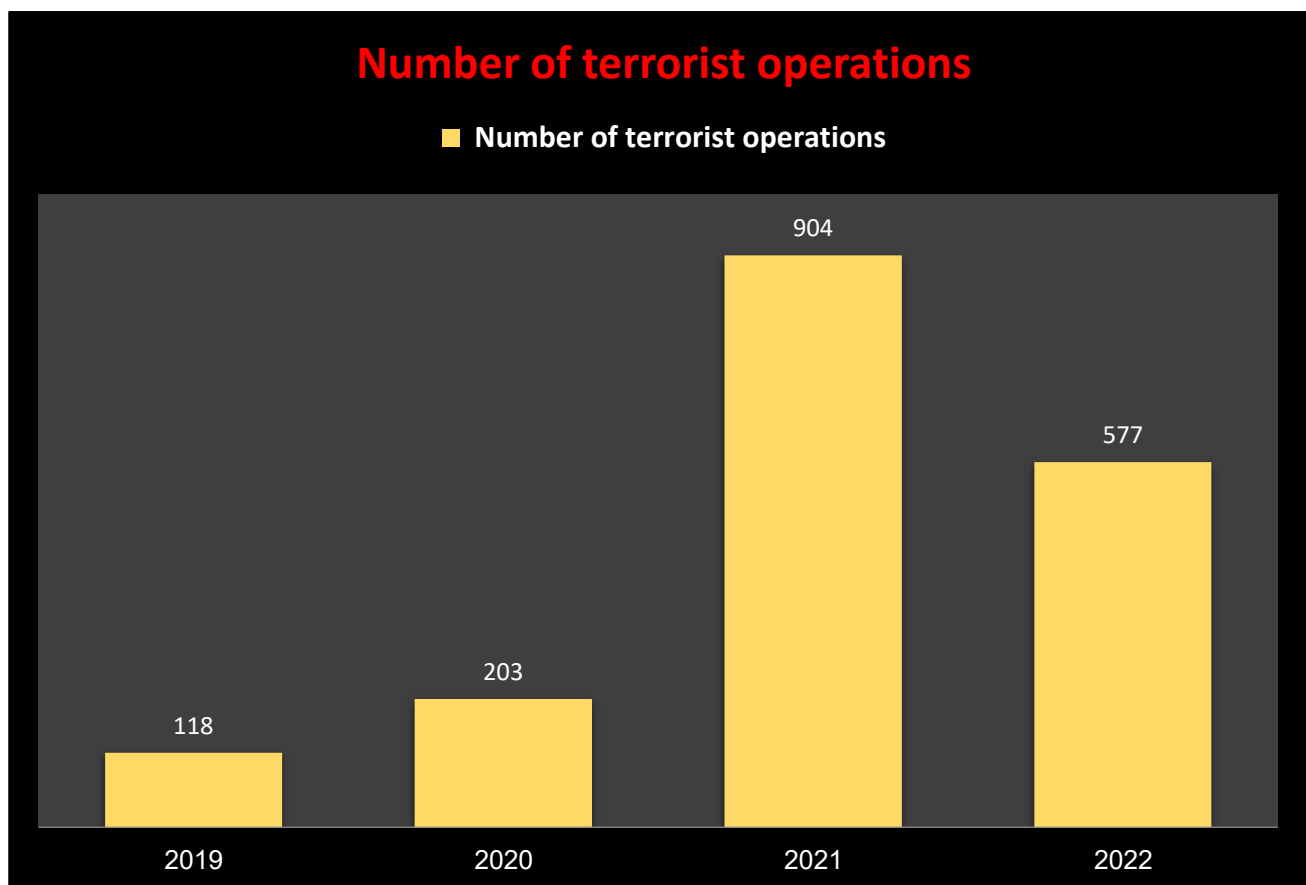
The Report also adopts a systemic approach to better understand the dynamics of terrorism and its impact on Arab societies. Scientific honesty requires a reference to the error coefficient that may have occurred due to the monitoring process. The monitoring process may lack the accuracy of the statistics published by the local and international media and newspapers, which sometimes differ in the number of victims, even if injured or killed. It should be noted to ensure accuracy and objectivity.

## First: Statistics of Terrorist Operations in the Arab Region 2022:

The year 2022 witnessed an increase in terrorist operations in the Arab region, with about 577 terrorist operations, compared to 904 terrorist operations last year, in which 1,566 people were killed and 1,522 others were wounded. The countries of armed conflict in the Arab region remained: Somalia; Syria; Iraq and Yemen are the most vulnerable to terrorist operations, as terrorist groups claimed responsibility for 499 terrorist operations in the four countries, which is 86% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region.

As for the Arab countries that limitedly affected by terrorist operations, such as Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt. The

eight countries were affected by about 78 terrorist operations, which is 16% of the total terrorist operations, 26 terrorist operations of them were in Saudi Arabia, which is 4.5% of the total terrorist operations. Of these, 22 terrorist operations took place in Sudan, accounting for 3.8% of the total terrorist operations, due to struggle for power, whether between basic political components, as is the case in Somalia between the current President Muhammad Abdullah and Prime Minister Muhammad Hussein Roble, and in Libya between Abdul Hamid al-Dababa, the former leader of the national government, before the Libyan parliament's decision to assign Fathi Pasha Agha to form the government, which the bears refused to comply with. Or between sectarian components, as is the case in Iraq between the Sunni component and the militias loyal to Iran.



*Figure No. (1): Terrorist operations in the Arab region over the past three years*

7 Arab countries maintained their record free of terrorism in 2022, which are Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Mauritania, Comoros, and Palestine, thanks to preemptive strikes and intelligence cooperation that led to the capture of extremist elements, and contributed to curbing terrorism in these countries. Mauritania remained far from any terrorist operations during the year, and it established, in addition to



security cooperation with neighboring countries, a special force to combat terrorism in the African Sahel, called "Al-Hijana", which is a force supported by the European Union. In the same context, Jordan pledged to enact more legislation and policies in order to comply with the standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Working Group concerned with combating money laundering and terrorism, after being placed on the gray list in October 2021. The group also praised the UAE's efforts in this context. During the reporting period, Jordan strengthened its rich cooperation with the Global Coalition against Daesh, of which 10 Arab countries have not been members.

Terrorist groups focused their operations primarily on national armies and security forces, relying on their ability to recruit individuals to carry out the tasks of installing and manufacturing explosive devices, which terrorist groups launched, in addition to carrying out suicide operations targeting either government officials or military personnel.

*Table No. (1) The Arab countries most affected by terrorism and the countries free of it*

**Countries Free from Terrorism**

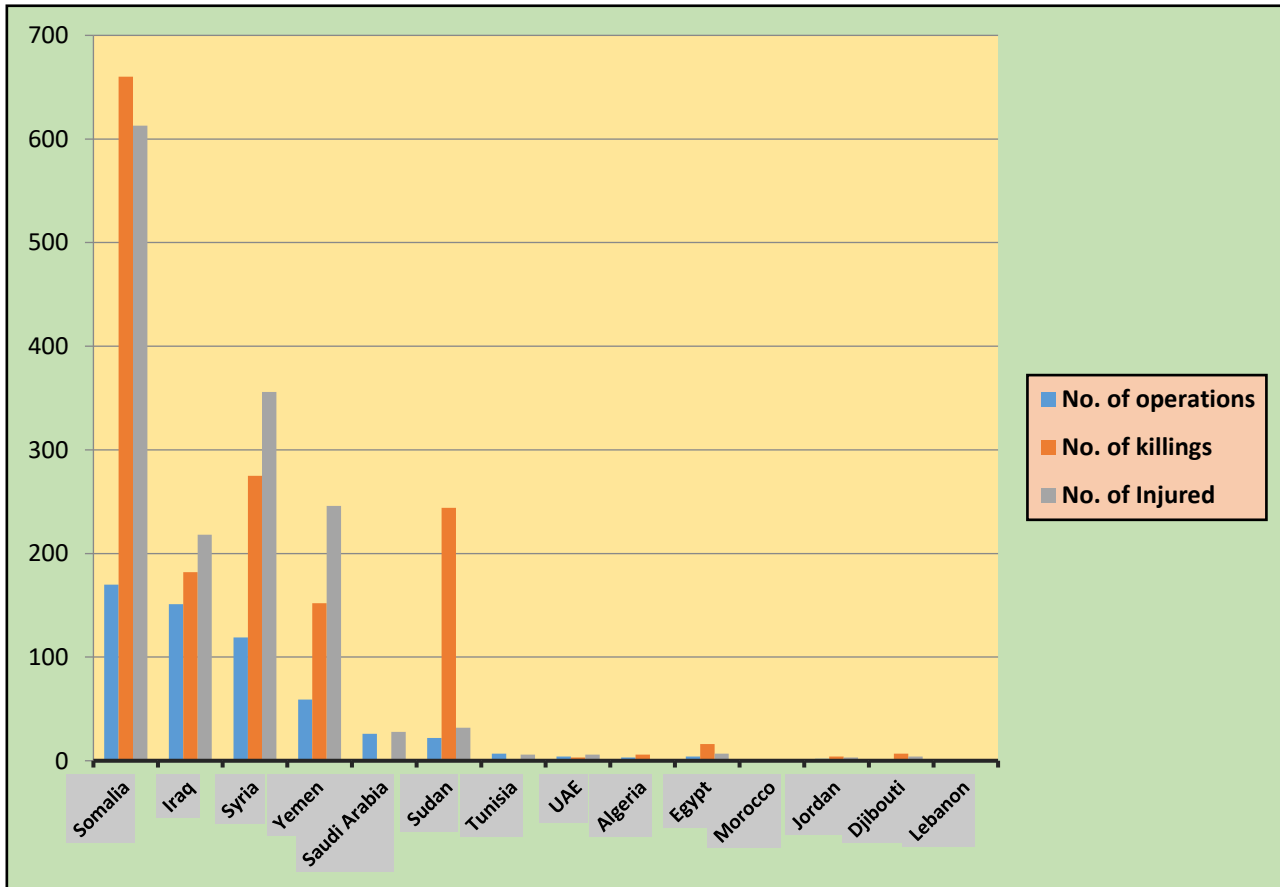
**Kuwait**  
**Oman**  
**Mauritania**  
**Bahrain**  
**Palestine**  
**Qatar**  
**Comoros**

**Countries Most Affected by Terrorism**

**Somalia**  
**Iraq**  
**Syria**  
**Saudi Arabia**  
**Yemen**  
**Sudan**  
**Libya**  
**UAE**  
**Tunisia**  
**Algeria**  
**Morocco**  
**Egypt**  
**Lebanon**  
**Djibouti**  
**Jordan**

Somalia topped the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region in 2022, with 170 terrorist operations, or 29.46%. Likewise, it topped the index of deaths and injuries, with about 660 deaths, or 42.15% of the total number in the Arab region, and about 613 injured, or 40.27% of the total number in the Arab region. Iraq came second in the index of terrorist operations, as terrorist groups claimed responsibility for 151 terrorist operations, at a rate of 26.17% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab countries, while it came fourth in the index of the dead and injured, with about 182 dead, or 11.6% of the total deaths in the Arab countries, and 218 injured, or 14.3% of the total injured, which may indicate, albeit with a low degree of confidence, the decline in the ability of terrorist organizations in Iraq to adopt operations that have a huge impact or inflict severe damage, whether on individuals or on civilian and military facilities. In the same way, Syria came third in the index of terrorist operations, with more than 119 terrorist operations, or 20.66% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab countries. Syria came third in the death index and second in the index of injuries with 275 deaths, which is 17.6% of the total number of deaths, and about 356 injured, by 23.4% of the total numbered of people injured. Yemen came fourth, with 59 terrorist attacks, or 10.22% of the total number, in the index of terrorist operations, fifth in the death toll index, with about 152 dead, or 9.7%, and third on the index of injured, with about 246 injured, or 16.2%. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came fifth in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region, with 26 terrorist operations, or 4.5%, and finally in the index of deaths without any deaths, and seventh in the index of injured, with 28 injured, or 1.8%. Sudan came sixth in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region, with 22 terrorist operations, or 3.8%, and second in the index of the deaths, with about 244 dead, or 38.2%, and sixth in the index of the injured, with 32 injured, or 2.1%. Libya came seventh in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region, with 11 terrorist operations, or 1.9%, and eighth in the index of the dead, with about 26 dead, or 4.07%, and eighth in the index of the injured, with 9 injured, or 0.6%. Tunisia came eighth in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region, with 7 terrorist operations, or 1.6%, tenth in the index of deaths, with about 1 dead, or 0.06%, and eighth in the index of injured, with 6 injured, or 0.4%. UAE came ninth in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region, with 4 terrorist operations, or 0.7%, seventh in the index of deaths, with about 3 dead, or 0.2%, and eighth in the index of injured, with 6 injured, or 0.4%. Egypt ranked tenth in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region, with 4 terrorist operations, or 0.7%, ninth in the index of deaths, with about 16 dead, or 1.02%, and ninth in the index of injured, with 7 injured, or 0.45%. Algeria came eleventh in the

index of terrorist operations in the Arab region, with 3 terrorist operations, or 0.5% of the total, and sixth in the index of deaths, with about 6 dead, or 0.4% of the total, and finally in the index of the injured, with no record or injured. Morocco ranked twelve in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region, with 1 terrorist operation, or 0.2%, tenth in the death toll index, with about 1 dead, or 0.06%, and tenth in the injured index, with 1 injured, or 0.07%. Jordan, Lebanon and Djibouti ranked last in the index of terrorist operations, deaths and injuries in the Arab region, with 1 terrorist operation, or 0.2%.



*Figure No. (2) Classification of terrorist operations according to the no. of operations, deaths, and injured index*

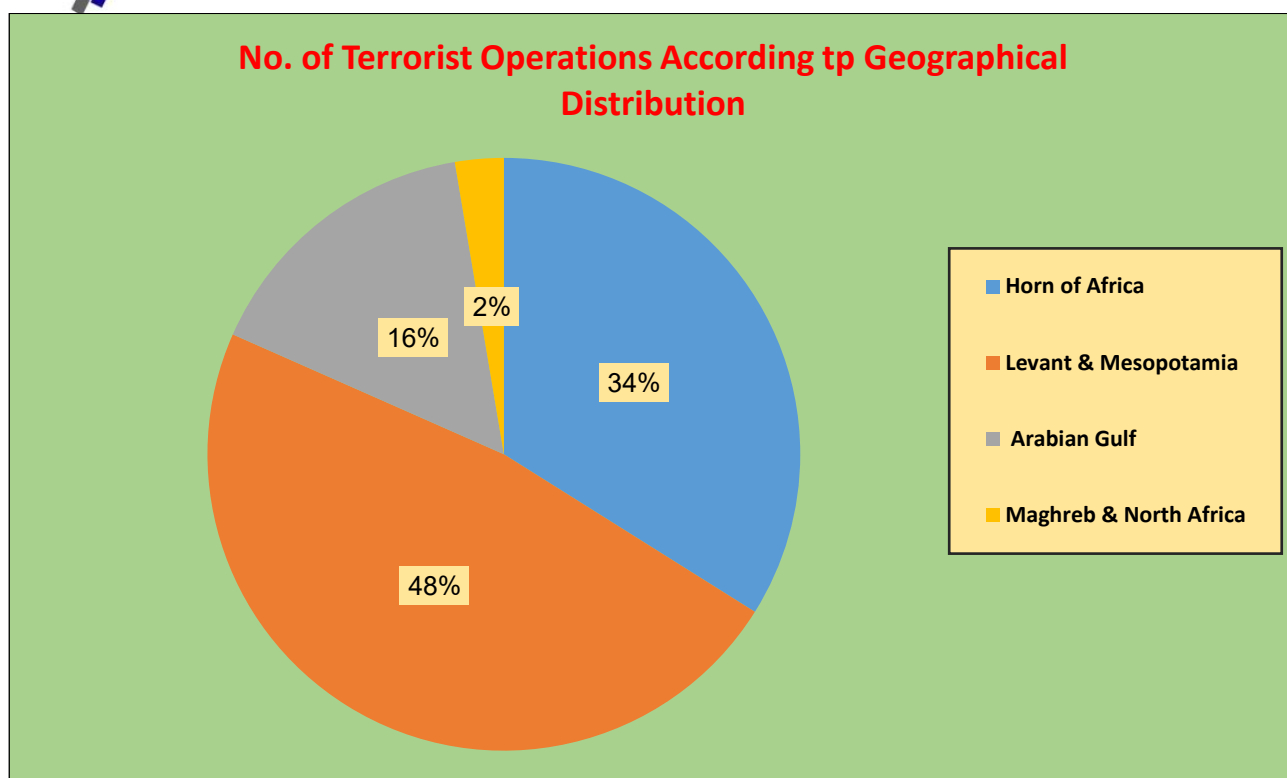
## Second: Terrorism According to Geographical Distribution in the Arab Region in 2022

Terrorism strengthened its geographical presence in the Arab region in specific areas, as the Arab countries located in the Horn of Africa were more affected than the others. Terrorist groups, or rather the youth movement in Somalia and unknown gunmen, both in Somalia and Sudan, carried out 192 terrorist operations, which is 33.3% of the total terrorist operations. Nevertheless, some Arab countries located in

the Horn of Africa remained far from terrorist operations, such as Djibouti and Comoros, thanks to the anti-terrorism efforts in the two countries and the military bases of the major countries in Djibouti in particular, which contributed to curbing terrorism in this small country that covers an area of 23,200 square kilometers.

Terrorist groups, Daesh in particular, have maintained their geographical spread across the region that constitutes the ambition of the alleged dispute in the literature of Daesh, where terrorism has spread in the Levant and Mesopotamia. Nearly 270 terrorist operations, or 46.8% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region, were attributed to Daesh. Most of the operations took place in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, while Palestine remained free of any attacks in 2022. The Lebanese General Security Forces thwarted more than one terrorist operation, the last of which was three operations that were planned to be carried out on February 24, 2022 in the southern suburbs of Beirut. However, unknown persons carried out in December 15, a terrorist attack in Beirut and an Irish soldier was killed as a result of this operation.

The Maghreb and North Africa region remained the least vulnerable to terrorist operations in the Arab region in 2022, as terrorist groups carried out only 15 terrorist operations in the countries of the Maghreb and North Africa, which is 2.6% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region. The Arab Gulf region came as the second least affected geographic region by terrorist operations, with 89 terrorist operations, which is 15.42% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region and civilian objects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, while targeting Yemeni army forces, infrastructure, and civilians in Yemen.



*Figure No. (3) Number of terrorist operations according to geographical distribution*

### **Third: Most Active Terrorist Groups in 2022**

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Daesh) claimed the largest number of terrorist operations in the Arab region during the year 2022, with 147 terrorist operations, or 23.5% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region, followed by Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia, which carried out the second largest terrorist operations in the Arab region during the year 2022, with 140 terrorist operations, or 22.4%, carried out in the states of Somalia as a whole. The Houthis came third in the terrorism index in the Arab region during the period covered by the report. According to Maat documentation, this group adopted and claimed responsibility for 66 terrorist operations, distributed between 26, 4, and 36, in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, respectively, with a rate of 10.54%. The Houthis continued to practice cross-border terrorism in 2022, which prompted the Security Council to adopt Resolution No. 2624 of 2022 which described the group for the first time as a terrorist group. Al-Qaeda was the fourth most active terrorist organization in 2022 with about 52 operations carried out, distributed between 30 terrorist operations in Syria and 21 terrorist operations in Iraq, while the pro-Iranian militias in Iraq and Syria came fifth on the terrorism index in the Arab region, as they claimed responsibility for 17 terrorist operations, 10 in Iraq and 7 in Syria. The majority of these operations were carried out against the US forces and the international coalition forces for



combating ISIS, or 2.7%. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Syria came sixth on the terrorism index in the Arab region, with 5 terrorist operations in Syria. The majority of these operations were carried out against the Syrian and Russian army and their affiliated militias, i.e. 0.8%. The Sudanese Janjaweed militia came seventh group on the terrorism index in the Arab region, with 2 terrorist operations in Sudan, with a rate of 0.3%. Alwiyat al-Waad al-Haq, Ansar al-Sharia, elements loyal to the Ennahda Party, the 8th Infantry Brigade, pro-Ethiopian militias, Jund al-Khilafah, and the National Reunification Front were only attributed to each of them with one terrorist operation in the Arab countries, i.e. 0.15%.

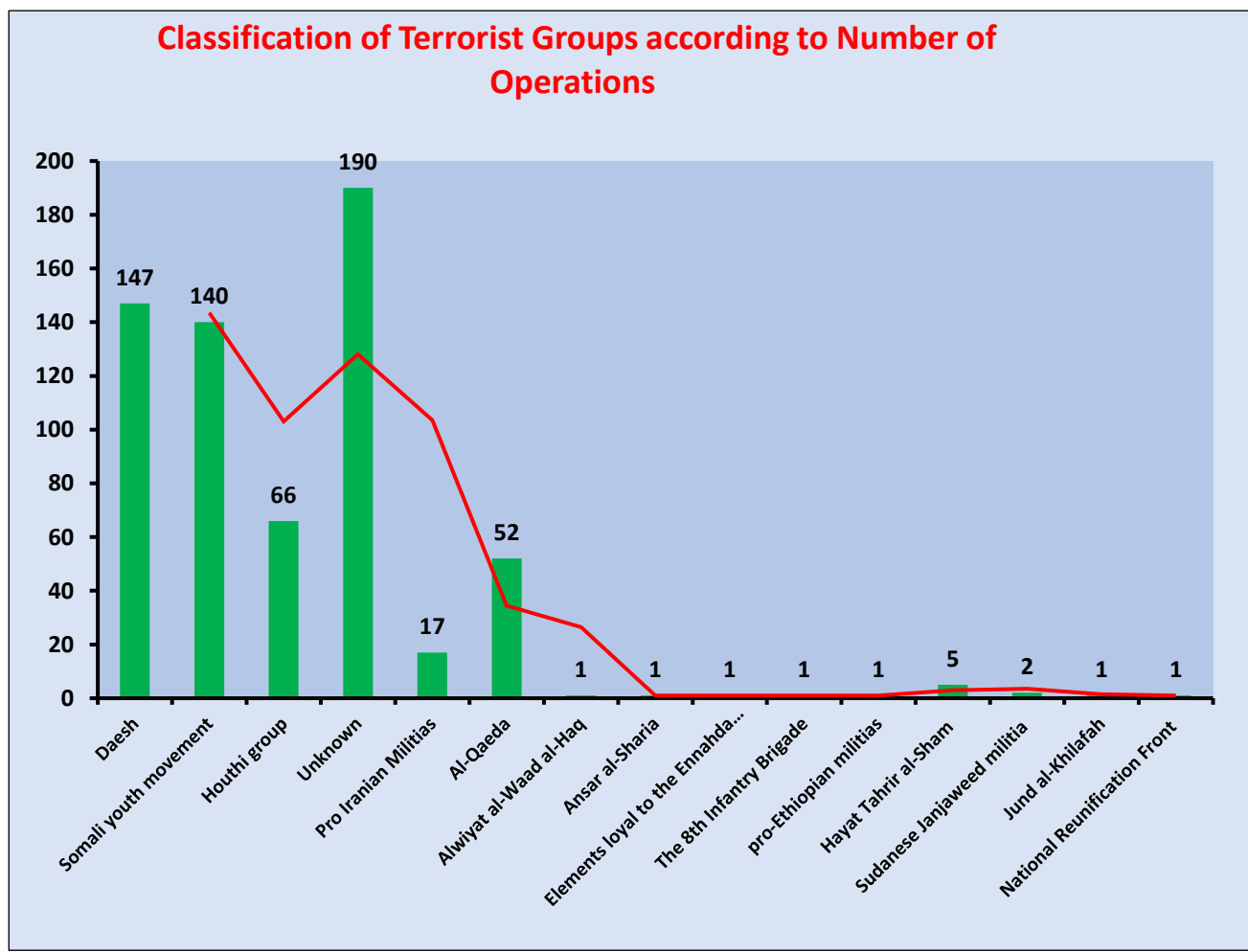


Figure No. (4) Classification of terrorist groups according to the number of operations

## Fourth: Terrorism in the Arab Region: An Analytical View

The gaps represented in the fragility of states of armed conflict and the inability of the national armies to control all territories they govern, in addition to the faltering of the political process in some Arab countries, remained an entry point for terrorism, which impedes any efforts towards achieving the goals of sustainable development and warns of the lagging behind of a number of countries. In the 2023 Agenda, Somalia topped the index of terrorism in the Arab region in 2022. The political crisis and the faltering conduct of the parliamentary elections in Somalia prompted more attacks adopted by Al-Shabaab, and the movement continues to rule by force of arms part of the lands in Somalia, and it is able to rule the population and impose taxes and collection.

Daesh remained to have its roots in the Syrian Desert and in remote areas in Iraq, from which it launched to the outskirts of Baghdad to pose a security threat for the first time since 2019 in the Iraqi capital. The American forces in Iraq and Syria remained a target for militias loyal to Iran, especially after the expiry of the deadline announced by these forces to withdraw. It did not begin to implement it, and although Morocco and Jordan were far from terrorism in previous years, a new strategy developed by elements loyal to Daesh in Morocco targets youth under thirty years of age through social media, with the aim of terrorist operations against tourists who go to rural areas where they seek their rest. In Jordan, a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeted the Jordanian police forces during a raid on a terrorist cell in the Husseiniya area in Ma'an Governorate. The following is what Maat observed based on the operations it documented in the Arab region in 2022.

## 1. Somalia:

Somalia came at the top of the terrorist operations index in the Arab region in 2022, Where terrorist groups in Somalia claimed 170 operations, Al-Shabaab is credited with 140 terrorist operations, which is 82% of the total terrorist operations in Somalia for the year 2022, while Maat wasn't able to know any of the terrorist groups that adopted 30 other operations, the perpetrators were classified as unknown. This is considered equal in the operation index compared to 2021, in which terrorist groups in Somalia claimed only 173 operations. In 2022, about 660 people were killed, while 613 others were injured, and thus Somalia topped the index of operations, deaths, and injuries.

**In the first quarter of 2022**, Somalia came at the top of the terrorist operations index in the Arab region in the first quarter of 2022, as terrorist groups in Somalia claimed 68 operations attributed to Al-Shabaab, which is 94% of the total terrorist operations, about the other four operations, Maat couldn't figure out their perpetrators. This is an increase in the index of the operations compared to the first quarter of 2021, in which terrorist groups in Somalia claimed only 43 operations. In the first quarter of 2022, approximately 230 people were killed and 301 injured in these attacks. Thus, Somalia topped the index of operations, deaths, and injuries as noted in the first quarter.

The prevalence of terrorism in Somalia during the first quarter of 2022 can be observed, which can be limited to: Al-Shabaab has taken notice of political differences between Somali President Mohamed Abdullah and the interim prime minister to return to Mogadishu. In the reporting period, the movement claimed more than 20 terrorist operations in the capital and direct confrontation with security and military forces. The return of the Al-Shabaab movement comes after it was expelled from the capital, Mogadishu, 10 years ago, as the movement was carrying out operations only in the areas adjacent to the capital, except the specific operations it naturally carried out in Mogadishu, But it did not live up to a permanent target of the movement's operations which appears to be changing.

Given the geographical distribution of Al-Shabaab operations in Somalia during the first quarter of 2022, it can be said that the movement intensified its operations in the states where parliamentary elections were held. Instance for this is; the Al-Shabaab-led bombing in Baldwin District which preceded one day of the city's hosting of the 6-seat parliamentary election on February 20, 2022, and as with the bombings claimed by the movement in the city of Bosaso, which coincided with the

announcement of the first parliamentary seats that will be contested in the city. The movement expanded these operations to postpone the electoral process, as the movement is the most beneficiary of the disruptive political situation in Somalia. It is worth noting that the parliamentary elections were postponed more than once and were supposed to end by February 25, 2022, before being extended until March 15 by an executive decision announced by Somalia's information minister. However, by March 15, the elections in the states of Herbisli and Jubbaland had not been completed, which prompted a number of member states of the UN to call on the Somali government to complete the elections. On February 9, 2022, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, clarified the imposition of sanctions that included restricting the issuance of US visas to a number of current and former Somali officials, due to undermining the electoral process and not adhering to the deadline set for the end of the parliamentary elections.

Al-Shabaab has always had a renewed ability to acquire resources from various sources, perhaps the most significant of which is the taxes that it collects in an amount that exceeds the capacity of the Somali government itself, which made Steven Tunsend the African sector commander in the US forces “AFRICOM “considers the movement the wealthiest Al Qaeda-related armed group in the world, he also described it as the wealthiest and largest in terms of fighters, in East Africa. Al-Shabaab receives approximately \$15 million per month, and although it does not possess natural resources such as oil or natural gas, it relied on various methods to finance itself, and its secondary budget, according to a UN report, ranges from \$70 million to \$100 million. The movement's resources are represented in the taxes that it obtains from the checkpoints through which the illegal trade of coal and other goods such as food commodities pass amounting to 100 checkpoints.

In addition to illegal taxes on goods in the port of Mogadishu, according to the Panel of Experts on Somalia, the Movement extorts companies that import and export goods through the port, by hacking shipment data, adding to the movement's resources: imposing real estate taxes on the local population, and other fees for Protection is in addition to the zakat that the movement collects annually from Somali merchants, farmers, and livestock owners in the areas under the movement’s control. While the movement can also collect money by extorting the local population by imposing real estate taxes, etc., in exchange for protection, and other types of collection that the movement gets annually from Somali merchants, farmers, and

livestock owners<sup>1</sup>. In a related context, Al-Shabaab terrorist movement is exploiting the sea lanes off the eastern coast of Africa in piracy, kidnapping, and ransom demand to enrich its operational budget.

**In the second quarter of 2022**, terrorist operations in Somalia declined compared to the first quarter of the same year, in which Somalia topped the terrorist operations index in the Arab region with 68 terrorist operations, and the Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia claimed all the terrorist operations documented by Maat in the second quarter by 20 terrorist operations, most of which were against the African Union forces and the Somali army forces. However, for the first time, Maat has observed a variety of efforts to prevent the threat of terrorism in Somalia during the reporting period.

Researchers at Maat based their analysis of the decline in terrorist operations in Somalia during the reporting period on a range of reasons, among them: The redeployment of American forces in Somalia, where on May 16, 2022, US President Joe Biden signed an executive decree allowing the deployment of about 450 soldiers from the Special Operations Forces inside Somalia, which had a moral impact on the army and police forces in Somalia, especially after the decision of his predecessor, Donald Trump, who withdrew about 700 American soldiers from Somalia after he came to power.

The resumption of pro-active strikes by Al-Shabaab militants was another factor in the decline of terrorist operations in Somalia. Various reports of United Nations agencies attributed the spread of terrorism in Somalia to the absence of security coordination and the inability of the agencies to carry out proactive strikes that reduce the seriousness of Al-Shabaab. However, in the second quarter of 2022 The Somali security forces, in coordination with the Intelligence Service, launched pre-emptive strikes against Al-Shabaab and arrest members of the movement in Shabelle. On July 17, the Somali security forces killed nearly 40 people from the Al-Shabaab movement in forestalling an attack to take control of the city the largest toll in at least a year and a half in the central Somali region of Bahdou. Maat researchers believe that the successive field losses among Al-Shabaab prompted it to reorganize, especially since it has not suffered such losses for at least two years.

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<sup>2</sup> Fighting a losing battle? Countering terrorism financing in Nigeria and Somalia, South African Journal of International Affairs, 10 May 2021, Available at the following: <https://bit.ly/3xBRGuQ>



Besides, it represents the cautious political stability in Somalia which coincides with the election in May 2022 of a new president, Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud; These elections were held only after massive pressure on former Somali President Mohamed Abdullah, as these elections were delayed for 15 months and were the cause of the deterioration of security and the spread of terrorism in Somalia. After his appointment, Sheikh Mahmoud called for reconciliation among state leaders, focusing on economic development and defeating terrorism. It seems that the apparent decline in terrorist operations in the second quarter carried out by the Al-Shabaab movement is due to this movement staying tuned to the policies of the current President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud, as it seems to be re-evaluating the situation, especially his predecessor was feeble in the face of Al-Shabaab and during his tenure, the security services were hacked.

**In the third quarter of 2022**, terrorist groups carried out 42 terrorist operations in Somalia, of these operations (26) were claimed by Al-Shabaab, which is 61.9% of the total terrorist operations in Somalia during the third quarter of 2022. The rest of the operations were attributed to unknown persons. These operations left the highest number of dead and wounded in the Arab region during the third quarter of 2022, with 173 deaths and about 193 injuries from civilians and military personnel.

The distribution of Al-Shabaab's terrorist operations shows that Al-Shabaab has the capability and vitality to carry out coordinated attacks in different parts of Somalia. Including access to the capital, Mogadishu, but the majority of operations are concentrated in southwestern Somalia state. Maat shares the opinion of the Group of Experts on Somalia in its latest report, which considered that Al-Shabaab still poses the greatest threat to peace and security in Somalia. Confronting terrorism may require additional efforts in Somalia, especially in light of the need to address the security gaps left by former President Farmajo and the intelligence failure, which was the gateway to a wide range of operations.

Despite the optimism that prevailed following the counter-terrorism speech of the current President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud, who was determined to confront the movement, Maat's analysis of the operations carried out by the movement suggests with a high degree of confidence that the movement still has unconventional capabilities to carry out operations, among them: the renewable financial capacity, and the ability to collect vital information. This is evident in tracking the Minister of Justice in the government of Western Somalia on July 29, 2022, and targeting him with a suicide bomber, which led to the death of the Minister of Justice

and the wounding of 11 others. Although the movement did not officially claim responsibility for this operation, there are indications that it was responsible for this attack. However, it is likely with a high degree of confidence that the last quarter of 2022 and the beginning of 2023 will represent a stage of strong conflicts between the movement and the Somali forces, in light of each party's insistence on displaying its control and its ability to weaken the other party.

**In the fourth quarter of 2022**, terrorist groups carried out 40 terrorist operations in Somalia, 30 of which were claimed by Al-Shabaab, representing 75% of the total terrorist operations in Somalia during the fourth quarter of 2022. The rest of the operations were attributed to unknown persons. On October 2, the Somali Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack with machine-gun attack targeting civilian workers while they were digging a well in the Gedo region, in Jubaland state, southern Somalia, killing 10 civilians<sup>2</sup>.

On October 8, the Somali Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack with two landmines targeting two military vehicles of the Somali army near the village of Galgala, 40 kilometers southwest of “Bosaso” in the Barri region of Puntland state in northeastern Somalia, killing 5 Somali soldiers<sup>3</sup>. On October 17, unidentified persons carried out a terrorist attack with a landmine targeting civilians in the “Ailqlo neighborhood” in the “Wadjiar” district in Somalia, Mogadishu, killing 7 civilians and wounding 5 others<sup>4</sup>. On October 29, the Somali Al-Shabaab movement carried out a double terrorist attack with two car bombs targeting the headquarters of the Ministry of Education in the center of the capital, Mogadishu, killing 100 people and wounding about 300 others<sup>5</sup>. On November 5, the Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack with a car bomb targeting a Somali army base in the capital, Mogadishu, killing 15 military personnel<sup>6</sup>. On November 7, the Somali Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack with two car bombs targeting a military base in the town of Qaayib in the Galgaduud governorate in the state of central Somalia, killing 10 Somali soldiers<sup>7</sup>. On November 12, the Somali Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack with pistols targeting a Somali army officer and killing him in the Daniele district of the capital, Mogadishu<sup>8</sup>. On November 22, the Al-Shabaab movement carried out a

<sup>2</sup> مقتل 10 أشخاص جنوب الصومال في هجوم مسلح لحركة الشباب، اليوم السابع، 2 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Vlr7p3>

<sup>3</sup> مصرع 5 من جنود ولاية بونتلاند بانفجار في إقليم بري، الصومال الجديد، 8 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3VzrlsQ>

<sup>4</sup> 7 قتلى و 5 مصابين في انفجار بمقديشو، الصومال الجديد، 18 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3jrrouVj>

<sup>5</sup> الرئيس الصومالي: مقتل 100 شخص علي الأقل في الانفجارين الكبيرين في مقديشو، الصومال الجديد، 30 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3GnlWQ6>

<sup>6</sup> 15 قتيلا على الأقل إثر تفجير انتحاري استهدف قاعدة للجيش الصومالي في مقديشو، sputnik arabic، 5 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3viO9Cf>

<sup>7</sup> الجيش الصومالي يصد هجوما لحركة الشباب على قاعدة عسكرية بجلجدود، العين الإخبارية، 7 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3hYfTsY>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

terrorist attack with machine guns targeting the Sarira base for forward operations in the Lower Juba region in the state of Jubaland in southern Somalia, killing 3 members of the Kenyan peacekeeping forces<sup>9</sup>. On November 27, the Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack using explosive belts and machine guns, targeting a hotel where Somali government officials were staying, near the Somali presidency, killing 10 civilians<sup>10</sup>. On December 3, the Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting the Jawf Jedud area and the “Dinunai” area in Baidoa, Bay region, in southwestern Somalia, killing and injuring unknown numbers<sup>11</sup>. On December 8, the Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting a local official inside his office in a hospital in Burhakaba district in Bay governorate, southern Somalia, killing one civilian<sup>12</sup>. On December 11, the Somali youth movement carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive device targeting the airport director of the city of Jowhar, north of the capital, Mogadishu, killing two people, one civilian and the other military, and wounding two other civilians<sup>13</sup>. On December 21, the movement carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting a prominent tribal leader as he left a mosque on his way to his home in Helio district, southeast of Mogadishu, killing 7 soldiers<sup>14</sup>. On December 25, the Al-Shabaab movement carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive device targeting a "Tuk-Tuk" vehicle that was carrying some civilians while they were crossing the Mahday district in the Middle Shabelle governorate, southern Somalia, and led to the killing of 3 civilians<sup>15</sup>. On 28 December, unidentified persons carried out a mortar terrorist attack targeting the Somali presidential palace in the capital, Mogadishu, wounding and killing an unknown number<sup>16</sup>.

## 2. Iraq:

Iraq came as the second Arab country in the terrorism index in the Arab region in 2022, as terrorist groups carried out 151 terrorist operations in Iraq, a decrease from the number of operations adopted by these groups in 2021, which amounted to 248 terrorist operations, accounting for 26.17% of the total operations in the Arab countries. In 2022, 182 people were killed and 218 injured.

<sup>9</sup> مقتل 3 جنود كينييين من قوات حفظ السلام الإفريقية في الصومال، الصومال اليوم، 22 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3VtYGoX>

<sup>10</sup> الصومال.. مقتل نحو 10 أشخاص في هجوم إرهابي على فندق بمقديشو، البيان، 28 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3jzWZZC>

<sup>11</sup> الشباب" الإرهابية تستولي على منطقتين جنوب غرب الصومال، العين الإخبارية، 3 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3C3OrR6>

<sup>12</sup> بصمات "الشباب".. اغتيال مسؤول محلي في "باي" الصومالية، العين الإخبارية، 8 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WtvQ5L>

<sup>13</sup> الصومال : مقتل شخصين في تفجير انتحاري لحركة « الشباب » بالعاصمة مقديشو، المصري اليوم، 11 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3jtvXmN>

<sup>14</sup> إرهاب الشباب" يغتال زعيما قريبا بارزا في الصومال، العين الإخبارية، 21 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3PTYf6d>

<sup>15</sup> تفجير جنوب الصومال يخلف 3 قتلى بصقوف المدنيين، العين الإخبارية، 25 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WQ7KWm>

<sup>16</sup> سلسلة انفجارات تستهدف القصر الرئاسي في الصومال بالتزامن مع زيارة الرئيس الجيبوتي، الصومال اليوم، 28 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Gxyv8v>

**In the first quarter of 2022**, terrorist groups carried out 43 terrorist operations in Iraq, which is considered a decrease compared with the number of operations adopted by these groups in the first quarter of 2021, which amounted to 45 terrorist operations. DAESH and its affiliated areas claimed 21 operations, which amounted to 48.8% of the total terrorist operations in Iraq in the first quarter of this year, while 10 operations were attributed to pro-Iranian militias in Iraq, and 12 other operations to unknown persons. DAESH has focused its attacks during the reporting period on targeting the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) alongside the Peshmerga forces and the security ambushes of the Iraqi security forces and army. However, the impact capacity of these attacks claimed by ISIL is no longer strong and has remained limited in effectiveness. This can be read in the total deaths and injuries as a result of terrorist operations in the first quarter, Maat noted the following:

Attacks on US forces in Iraq intensified as pro-Iranian militias used drones and rocket-propelled grenades to target US troop headquarters in Iraq, and these militias had warned US forces to intensify their attacks if they did not fulfill the promise they made to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2021, which was not fulfilled, especially after the spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in Iraq, Yahya Rasool, announced on December 31, 2021, that Iraq still needed about 2,500 American soldiers to help it fight terrorism, which is the same number of soldiers that the United States intended to withdraw by the end of 2021 from Iraq and the decline of their role in providing training and counseling, which is considered an incomplete withdrawal. These militias carried out about 21 operations, most of which were against the forces stationed at Victoria Base near Baghdad Airport, the headquarters of the US Embassy in the Green Zone in Baghdad Governorate, and the Ain al-Asad base in Anbar Governorate.

On January 5, 2022, The merger of the Taqaddum and Azm Alliance was announced, a Sunni bloc that includes about 64 deputies in the Iraqi parliament, merged after the last elections, but the leaders and offices of this coalition were targeted by terrorist on January 14, 2022, when gunmen attacked with an explosive device the headquarters of the "Taqaddum Coalition", in the Adhamiya district, north of Baghdad; This operation, which did not leave any casualties, coincided with the targeting of the headquarters of the "Azm" coalition in the Yarmouk region, west of Baghdad; Besides targeting headquarters, pro-Iranian militias carried out qualitative operations targeting some members of the coalition. For instance, on January 25, 2022, these militias carried out a terrorist attack with 3 missiles targeting the Karma

district, the hometown of the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament and the head of the Progressive Alliance, Muhammad al-Halbousi, in Anbar Governorate. Despite the coalition's request to pursue the elements that carry out these operations, no investigation was opened into these operations, and all operations were attributed to unknown persons, while some reports suggested that pro-Iranian militias were behind these operations. Maat's researchers suggest that the assassination of members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives may continue if a consensual Iraqi Government is not formed as soon as possible.

DAESH and its decentralized cells carried out the largest number of operations in the governorates of Diyala, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din, which are the governorates known as the Triangle of Death. DAESH adopted more than half of the number of operations attributed to it in the first quarter of 2022, and it is using the desert backwaters of those provinces as a safe haven to plan its operations due to the geographical nature of these provinces, where the Hamrin mountain range and the Al-Azim water basin exist, in which DAESH sees safe places to hide away from the Iraqi security forces<sup>17</sup>. What enhances the ability of DAESH to carry out terrorist operations in these provinces is the presence of multiple security agencies. For example, Diyala province has More than one security agency, such as the Federal Police, the Popular Mobilization Forces, the Tribal Mobilization Forces, and Diyala operations. All of these devices are not compatible with a unified strategy to combat ISIL, which creates an imbalance in the face of ISIL in these provinces<sup>18</sup>. In Kirkuk in particular, the social, political, and religious conflict, which is attributed to the overlapping sectarianly and tribally, which include both Sunnis and Shia, is a catalyst for the growth of terrorism in Kirkuk Governorate, especially if we note that the areas through which terrorist operations are carried out the eastern and north-eastern regions characterized by their diverse population and interrelated composition.

**In the second quarter of 2022**, Iraq recorded 41 terrorist operations in the second quarter of 2022, a minor decrease compared with the number of operations carried out in the first quarter of 2022, which amounted to 43 terrorist operations, and it is the second Arab country in terms of the rate of terrorist operations in the period covered by the report. 57 people, both military and civilians, were killed in these operations, and 72 others were injured, some of them with injuries that may

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Iraq Security Situation Country of Origin Information Report January 2022, EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR ASYLUM COI REPORT <sup>17</sup>  
– IRAQ, SECURITY SITUATION, page 31, <https://bit.ly/3NnRpEi>

<sup>18</sup> تساعد المطالب لإصلاح المنظومة الأمنية العراقية، Independent عربي، 28 يوليو 2021، على الرابط التالي: <https://bit.ly/3wH2RFg>



lead to death. DAESH claimed responsibility for most of the terrorist operations, 27 out of 41 operations in Iraq, which is 65% of the total terrorist operations in Iraq during the second quarter of 2022.

Maat found a contradiction in the statements of some Iraqi officials regarding the size and capacity of DAESH in Iraq, as according to the official spokesman for the Counter-Terrorism Service, the current number of DAESH in Iraq is estimated at about 1,000 militants affiliated with the organization, and that the organization has lost 90% of its funding sources, and at the same time during the meeting, the spokesman made it clear that Iraq aims to eliminate the organization within 5 years, which is a long period of time compared to the size of the organization and its funding sources as acknowledged by the spokesman.

Maat has noticed, through its monitoring of terrorist operations, the continued targeting of members of the Iraqi Parliament, as pro-Iranian militias, which did not have the majority continued to target members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives as the formation of an Iraqi government faltered after the elections. On April 2, Rebwar Amin, a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Kirkuk province, was assassinated, this attack was followed by another targeting on April 5, of three deputies in Baghdad Governorate. It is worth noting that, since January 5, 2022, pro-Iranian militias have started targeting parliamentarians, which is the same date as the Taqaddum and Azm coalition, which is a Sunni bloc that includes about 64 representatives in the Iraqi parliament, merged after the last elections.

In addition to targeting headquarters, pro-Iranian militias carried out qualitative operations targeting some deputies of the coalition, for instance: on January 25, 2022, these militias carried out a terrorist attack with 3 missiles targeting the Karma district, the hometown of the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament and the head of the Progressive Alliance, Muhammad al-Halbousi, in Anbar Governorate. Despite the coalition's request to pursue the elements that carry out these operations, no investigation was opened into these operations, and all operations were attributed to unknown persons, while some reports suggested that pro-Iranian militias were behind these operations.

Maat also noted that efforts to prevent terrorism have faltered in the Triangle of Death, where the provinces of Diyala, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din, known as the Triangle of Death, continue to witness the largest number of terrorist operations in Iraq in the second quarter of 2022, exceeding 30% of the total terrorist operations in Iraq in the reporting period.



**In the third quarter of 2022**, Iraq came second in the index of terrorism in the Arab region in the third quarter of 2022, as it carried out 34 operations in Iraqi territory during the reporting period. These operations claimed the lives of 46 Iraqis and injured about 69 others, Some 59% of these operations were carried out in three governorates: Diyala, Salah al-Din, and Kirkuk, and DAESH takes the desert hinterland of those provinces as a safe haven to plan its operations because of the geographical nature of these provinces, where the Hamrin mountain range and the Al-Adheem water basin are areas that DAESH considers safe to hide away from the Iraqi security forces.

The organization also maintains separate cells in small groups in Anbar province, either to carry out terrorist operations inside the province or to be a center for planning operations targeting the capital, Baghdad, in which terrorist groups carried out 10 operations during the reporting period, after maintaining a small rate of operations in the previous months.

The political differences that followed the results of the parliamentary elections between what is known as the Sadrist movement and the coordination framework led by Nour al-Maliki led to the continuation of shortcomings in confronting terrorism, giving terrorist groups another opportunity to plan and carry out further operations. After assigning Mohammed Shiaa al-Sudani, whom some consider to be loyal to Nour al-Maliki, was assigned to form the cabinet in October 2022, it was about 10 months ago for Iraq without an elected prime minister after Mustafa al-Kazimi's term ended.

**In the fourth quarter of 2022**, Iraq came second in the terrorism index in the Arab region in the third quarter of 2022, as it carried out 33 operations in Iraqi territory during the reporting period, representing 22% of the total terrorist operations in Iraq throughout the year. On October 7, unidentified persons carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive device targeting a car carrying civilians in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan region, killing one person and wounding 4 other civilians<sup>19</sup>. On October 13, unidentified persons carried out a terrorist attack using 8 Katyusha missiles targeting the Khor Mor gas field in Chamchamal district in the Sulaymaniyah governorate in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, without any deaths or injuries<sup>20</sup>. On October 21, DAESH carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons and explosives targeting a security point and a residential house in the Green Border area

<sup>19</sup> مقتل شخص وإصابة 4 بانفجار عبوة ناسفة في أربيل، العربية، 7 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vgxQpB>  
<sup>20</sup> استهداف حقول للغاز شمالي العراق بالصواريخ، روسيا اليوم، 13 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3jnV8aI>

within the Waqf Basin in northeastern Diyala Governorate, killing a police lieutenant colonel and wounding two members of the security services<sup>21</sup>. On November 7, pro-Iranian militias called Ashab al-Kahf carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons, targeting a car in which an American citizen was traveling in Street 62, in the Karrada area, in the center of the capital, Baghdad, killing an American citizen<sup>22</sup>. On November 19, DAESH carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting an Iraqi army barracks within the Dibis district in Kirkuk governorate, killing 4 members of the Iraqi army forces<sup>23</sup>. On November 25, unidentified persons carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons, targeting a civilian car with two people inside it, in al-Hurriyah district, north of Baghdad, killing one civilian and wounding another<sup>24</sup>. On December 9, unidentified persons carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting a security officer in Bansalawa neighborhood in Erbil governorate, led to his death<sup>25</sup>. On December 18, DAESH carried out a terrorist attack with an improvised explosive device and light and medium weapons targeting a Federal Police patrol in the villages of Shalal al-Matar and al-Safra villages in the Iraqi governorate of Kirkuk, killing 12 Iraqi policemen<sup>26</sup>. On December 22, DAESH carried out a terrorist attack with an improvised explosive device targeting an Iraqi army vehicle in the village of Al-Sahel in the Dibis district of Kirkuk Governorate in northern Iraq, killing two soldiers and wounding 3 others<sup>27</sup>. On December 25, a terrorist attack was carried out with automatic weapons targeting the village of Al-Harouja on the outskirts of the Al-Salam district of Al-Khalis district, north of Baquba, Diyala Governorate, without causing any casualties or deaths<sup>28</sup>.

### 3. Syria

Syria witnessed 119 terrorist operations in 2022, which is less the number of terrorist operations compared to the operations that occurred on Syrian territory in 2021, which amounted to 212 terrorist operations. The death toll was 275 for 2022, which is less than in 2021, which killed 422 people. The number of injured people, 356 for 2022, is less than the number of injured people for 2021 when 432 were injured at the time.

<sup>21</sup> بعد ليلة ديالى الدامية.. حالة استنفار قصوى وتعزيزات قتالية تصل العبارة، بغداد اليوم، 21 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WITXRb>

<sup>22</sup> حادث غامض.. مقتل مواطن أمريكي وسط بغداد، العين لإخبارية، 7 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WneKtR>

<sup>23</sup> مصدر أمني عراقي: مقتل 4 جنود في هجوم إرهابي لـ"داعش" بـكركوك، اليوم السابع، 19 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3BZwxz7>

<sup>24</sup> مقتل شخص وإصابة آخر بهجوم مسلح شمالي بغداد، موازين نيوز، 25 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3YN9iSF>

<sup>25</sup> مقتل ضابط أمني في هجوم مسلح بأربيل، nas news، 9 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WpE02r>

<sup>26</sup> العراق.. مقتل 12 عنصرا من "الشرطة" بهجوم في "كركوك"، الأناضول، 18 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3FVkXpW>

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

<sup>28</sup> بعد هجوم "الو بالي".. احباط تعرض استهداف قرية في ديالى .. اخبار عربية، نبض، 25 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3i1figu>

**In the first quarter of 2022**, Syria witnessed 33 terrorist operations, which is an increase in the number of terrorist operations compared to the operations that occurred on Syrian territory in the first quarter of 2021, which amounted to 36 terrorist operations. During the reporting period, Daesh claimed 23 terrorist operations, while 8 operations were attributed to unknown persons and two operations were attributed to pro-Iranian militias. Perhaps the most important event in the fight against terrorism in Syria in the reporting period is the targeting of the emir of Daesh in Syria and Iraq, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, also known as Hajj Abdullah. The latter detonated an explosive belt, as a result of which he, his wife and his children were killed in a qualitative operation launched by US military forces in Idlib governorate, northwestern Syria. The decline in the organization's ability to create operations with a wide resonance can be read through the subsequent period to neutralize the organization's leader and wait for the affiliated branches of the organization, the allegiance emir of the organization, Abu al-Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, whose allegiance was announced by the organization in March 2022.

Terrorist operations in Syria did not stop during the first quarter, but their impact remained limited. Researchers at Maat noted the continued existence of enclaves affiliated with Daesh in Badia as a safe haven, as this vast and sprawling region is a safe haven for planning and carrying out a wide range of terrorist operations, as Daesh has claimed no less than 15 terrorist operations in the desert of Deir El-Zur, Raqqa, and Homs, and in the rural and remote areas surrounding the two governorates.

Daesh used light and medium machine guns and RPG missiles in the attacks, which caused a number of civilian deaths, including shepherds in the arid region. This desert region still represents a gap in counter-terrorism efforts because of the factors that characterize this region, such as low population and rugged terrain that is suitable for the disappearance of Daesh terrorist cells, such as mountains, valleys, very deep natural limestone caves, and daily breeding storms that obscure aerial vision and remove traces of the movements of terrorist elements very quickly. These areas are called dark or invisible areas due to the difficulties in monitoring them by the counter-terrorism forces.

It seems that Daesh decided in the first quarter of 2022 to implement what it had planned throughout 2021, which is to get its mercenaries out of prisons controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces. From January 20<sup>th</sup> to January 30<sup>th</sup>, clashes continued between Daesh militants and Kurdish forces using light and medium

weapons, these clashes targeted Ghweran prison, one of the largest prisons in which fighters affiliated with the organization are held in Hasakah, northeastern Syria, and the clashes killed 88 people from the Kurdish forces and civilians. The dilemma of Al-Hol camp, which hosts about 56,000 families of terrorists, women and children, will remain a situation that could explode at any time if Member States, including Arab countries, did not develop unconventional and final solutions to the situation in the camp.

**In the second quarter of 2022**, Syria came at the top of the terrorism index in the Arab region, as terrorist groups carried out 42 terrorist operations in Syrian territory, some of these operations occurred in areas not under the control of the Syrian army, which is an increase from the number of terrorist operations that occurred in the first quarter of 2022, where Syria recorded only 33 terrorist operations. 61 civilians and military personnel alike were killed in these terrorist operations, while 123 others were injured.

It was likely that the intensity of terrorist operations in Syria would decrease after targeting the emir of Daesh in Syria and Iraq, Abu Ibrahim Al-Hashimi Al-Qurayshi, who blew himself up with an explosive belt, as a result of which he, his wife and children were killed in a qualitative operation in which US military forces embarked in Idlib governorate, northwestern Syria. But on the contrary, these operations worsened, and Maat noticed a new pattern of terrorism in Syria during the second quarter, represented by the assassination of directors of humanitarian organizations. On April 18, 2022, unknown persons targeted the head of the "Descendants of Qara Kaji" humanitarian organization in the countryside of Aleppo with an explosive device planted in his car, and he lost his life as a result of this explosion. On June 15, 2022, unknown persons assassinated Ammar Al-Fin, the director of the IYD organization, using an explosive device, in Al-Bab in the Aleppo governorate, and he died instantly.

On the other hand, the attacks carried out by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) decreased in the second quarter of 2022. Researchers at Maat suggest this decline to the tensions that marred HTS during the past months, including the discovery of Daesh cells inside HTS in the countryside of Idlib governorate, a number of Daesh militants went into hiding Daesh is in camps on the Syrian-Turkish border, where smuggling and financing operations are active, in addition to HTS attempting not to appear as a terrorist group, hoping to cancel its classification as a terrorist group by the United States.

Maat has also noted that Daesh adopted a strategy aimed at exhausting the Syrian Democratic Forces in the second quarter of 2022, and it seems that this strategy was adopted by the organization after the failure of the attack on Ghweran prison, which is one of the largest prisons in which fighters affiliated with the organization are detained in Hasakah, northeastern Syria. As a result of these attacks against the Syrian Democratic Forces in the second quarter of 2022, 10 soldiers of the Syrian Democratic Forces were killed and wounded, which represents more than 16% of the total deaths in Syria as a result of terrorist operations. The researchers at Maat suggested that these attacks, which were mostly attributed to unknown persons in the Syrian Democratic Forces, aimed at smuggling armed elements into the prisons under the supervision of these forces.

**In the third quarter of 2022**, 31 terrorist operations were carried out in the Syrian territories, these operations caused the death of 41 and the injury of 57. Daesh in Syria and other groups that have not declared themselves are still able to move freely in rural areas. Maat has noted that about 16 terrorist operations occurred in the rural areas of the Syrian governorates, which accounted for 51.6% of the total terrorist operations that occurred in Syria during the reporting period. Most of the operations occurred in the countryside of Daraa, Al-Hasakah, the countryside of Deir Ez-Zor and Aleppo, next to the countryside of Damascus, and one operation in the countryside of Homs.

Pro-Iranian militias have focused on targeting the Al-Omar oil field base, which will host an American base in the third quarter of 2022, and the Al-Natf military base in southern Syria. Although these militias have only one operation attributed to them, they follow a strategy of not announcing their attacks against American interests fearing the American response. Therefore, most of the attacks were attributed to unknown persons. This targeting is a continuation of the strategy adopted by pro-Iranian militias since the beginning of 2022, which aims to harm all US interests in Syria. In light of this targeting, the United States intensified its air strikes against the infrastructure controlled by groups affiliated with Iran in Syria.

Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) only claimed four operations during the reported period. In general, the movement's operations are declining in terms of operations starting from 2022. The movement, by reducing attacks, is trying to appease the United States of America and the European Union to remove its name from the lists of terrorist groups, which is a demand announced by the leader of the group, Abu Mohammed Al-jawline, publicly before, but Washington has not decided on this



request, as Washington still has fears of the HTS' return to terrorism, in addition to other disagreements represented in refusing the presence of HTS in specific areas in some areas in northeastern Syria.

**In the fourth quarter of 2022**, 13 terrorist operations were carried out in the Syrian territory. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Daesh carried out a terrorist attack with machine guns that targeted a car carrying members of the National Defense on the road to the town of Al-Boleel, east of Deir Ez-Zor governorate, eastern Syria, killing 4 members from the National Defense and injuring two other members<sup>29</sup>. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, unknown persons carried out a terrorist attack with rocket-propelled grenades targeting a base hosting US forces in the Rmeilan area in northeastern Syria, without causing any victims<sup>30</sup>. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Daesh carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive belt targeting the house of a former leader of the Syrian opposition in Al-Arba'een neighborhood in Daraa al-Balad, killing 4 people and injuring 5 others<sup>31</sup>. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, Jabhat al-Nusra, one of the al-Qaeda organizations, carried out a terrorist attack using rocket-propelled grenades and sniper weapons targeting government forces' positions in the de-escalation zone in Idlib governorate, injuring a soldier in the Syrian army<sup>32</sup>.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Daesh carried out a terrorist attack with a car bomb, trying to target a security site in the "Tariq al-Sad" neighborhood, adjacent to the Syrian-Jordanian border, in southern Daraa<sup>33</sup>. Also, on November 14<sup>th</sup>, Daesh carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting a military patrol of the Syrian Democratic Forces near the village of al-Tuqahi in the northern countryside of Deir Ez-Zor, in the east of the country, killing 3 members of the Syrian Democratic Forces and injuring an unknown number<sup>34</sup>. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Daesh carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting the car of the head of the Military Security Detachment on Shweihan Road near the Sabkha area in the eastern countryside of Raqqa, in the north-east of the country, killing two members of the "Military Security" forces of the Syrian army and injuring an unknown number<sup>35</sup>. On November 25<sup>th</sup>,

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<sup>29</sup> Members of the "National Defense" were killed in eastern Syria, and the Air Force Intelligence arrested two young men in Daraa, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, October 4, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3FT2E4A>

<sup>30</sup> An unknown missile targets an American base in Syria.. no injuries, Al-Arabiya, October 9, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3Wp8P7A>

<sup>31</sup> "Da'esh" strikes in Daraa...and the factions declare a curfew, Asharq Al-Awsat, October 30, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3veu8N8>

<sup>32</sup> The terrorist Jabhat Al-Nusra carried out two attacks on the Syrian Idlib region, sputnik arabic, November 1, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3X1oR7J>

<sup>33</sup> Syria.. thwarting a car bomb attack driven by a suicide bomber from "ISIS" in the city of Daraa, Russia Today, November 14, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3vhgRn3>

<sup>34</sup> Dead and wounded members of the Syrian regime in an attack by "ISIS" near Tabqa Airport, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, November 17, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3ij9mbU>

<sup>35</sup> Syria: "ISIS" attacks a regime patrol in Al-Raqqah, causing deaths, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, November 18, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3jxJJEP>



unknown persons carried out a terrorist attack using 3 Katyusha missiles, targeting the US army base in the oil city of Al-Shaddadi, south of Al-Hasakah governorate, northeastern Syria<sup>36</sup>.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Daesh carried out a terrorist attack with a car bomb targeting a headquarters of the Syrian Democratic Forces in Qamishli, in Al-Hasakah governorate, northeastern Syria, injuring an unknown number. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Jabhat Al-Nusra carried out a terrorist car bomb attack targeting one of the headquarters of the Syrian Democratic Forces in Qamishli, in Al-Hasakah governorate, northeastern Syria, killing two Syrian soldiers and injuring another<sup>37</sup>. On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jabhat Al-Nusra carried out a terrorist attack with rocket and mortar shells targeting government forces' positions in the Maarat Mukhas area in Idlib governorate, northern Syria, killing 3 Syrian soldiers and injuring 4 others<sup>38</sup>. On December 30<sup>th</sup>, Daesh carried out a double terrorist attack with explosive devices and machine guns targeting three buses carrying workers in the Al-Taim oil field in Deir Ez-Zor governorate in eastern Syria, killing 10 civilians and injuring 2 others<sup>39</sup>.

#### 4. Yemen

Yemen ranked fourth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out 59 terrorist operations, which is slightly more compared to 2021, when the number of terrorist operations was 55. The operations killed 152 people and injured 246 in 2022, which is less than 2021, which killed 219 people and injured 277.

**In the first quarter of 2022**, when terrorist groups carried out 15 terrorist operations, the Houthis claimed 11 operations, while three operations were attributed to unknown persons; one terrorist operation was attributed to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. In general, more than 90% of the terrorist operations occurred in the governorates located in the south of Yemen. The purpose of these operations is to fuel the anger of the population, who are already complaining about the crisis economy, the interruption of wages and salaries, and the recognition of the ineffectiveness of managing those who control the institutions in southern Yemen, and then refusing to comply with their rule, which is the target of the Houthis.

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<sup>36</sup> Rocket strikes on a US army base in eastern Syria, Russia Today, November 25, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3Vqj1eN>

<sup>37</sup> A car bomb exploded in an SDF headquarters in Qamishli, Al-Ain Al-Ikhbariya, December 5, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3lc6kky>.

<sup>38</sup> Russian Reconciliation Center: 3 Syrian soldiers were killed in terrorist bombing in Idlib, Russia Today, December 23, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3YS4MIE>

<sup>39</sup> 10 people were killed in a terrorist attack that targeted 3 buses in eastern Syria, Al-Ain Al-Ikhbariya, December 30, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3WT8VEi>

In the second quarter of 2022, Yemen recorded eight terrorist operations, killing 23 people and wounding 25 others, which is a decrease from the number of operations recorded in Yemen in the first quarter, which amounted to about 14 operations. The extension of the truce between the Houthis and the Presidential Council in June 2022 helped in this decrease. At the same time, Maat noted that more than 95% of the terrorist operations that took place in Yemen during the period covered by the report were operations that took place in southern Yemen, due to the weak security coordination between the various agencies in the southern governorates, in contrast to areas under the control of the Houthis.

The researchers at Maat also noted the renewed return of Al-Qaeda in Yemen during the second quarter of 2022. The organization adopted 4 operations, all in the southern governorates. Some reports suggested the activity of this organization with the exit of Yemeni Vice President Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar from the political equation in Yemen after the formation of the Presidency Council by linking it to its close relationship with elements of the organization, especially after Al-Qaeda, the Yemen branch, issued a statement following the formation of the Presidency Council, in which it criticized the Council and the countries that sponsored the agreement. In addition, the fact that al-Qaeda was able to release 10 of its members in the first military zone prison in Hadramout governorate encouraged it to strengthen its operations.

As an indication of the return of the organization, Maat also noticed the intensification of al-Qaeda's operational activities in some districts of Shabwa and Abyan provinces, which are former areas of influence of al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda organized rallies led by the organization's militants, who chanted jihadist chants. Al-Qaeda also tried to carry out other tasks, as Al-Qaeda ordered women in these areas not to go out with their faces uncovered, otherwise, they would be punished.

Terrorist groups in Yemen continued to plan and carry out assassinations of journalists in Yemen. On June 15, 2022, journalist Saber Al-Haidari was targeted with an explosive device planted in his car in the Yemeni capital, Aden. It is the same way the journalist Rasha Al-Harazi was assassinated, as the aforementioned journalist and her husband, the journalist Mahmoud Al-Atam were assassinated on November 9, 2021, and because of this operation, Al-Harazi died; her husband was seriously injured, almost losing his life.

In the third quarter of 2022, 19 terrorist operations were carried out in Yemen, 44 people were killed, and about 71 were injured in these operations. More than half

of the operations took place in the southern governorates of Yemen, especially the Abyan governorate, which has a presence for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, especially in the caves and regions, and mountains in Yemen. The organization's presence is also concentrated in Shabwa and Al-Bayda; it is trying to be in Hadramout Governorate.

It is evident through the remarkable return of Al-Qaeda to carry out these attacks in Yemen and different governorates, the coordination between the organization's branches in the different governorates of Yemen, and the ability to plan, implement, move, and maneuver in these areas. It seems that the organization has deftly exploited the differences between the security and military institutions in southern Yemen. In the same context, some reports attribute that the organization has taken the option of escalation as a response to the "arrows of the east, arrows of the south" campaign launched by the Southern Transitional Council on August 22, 2022, in Abyan Governorate and on September 10, 2022, in Shabwa Governorate.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, 17 terrorist operations were carried out in Yemen. On October 6, the Houthis carried out a terrorist attack with various weapons targeting Yemeni army sites east and west of Taiz, 270 km south of the capital, Sana'a, without causing any casualties<sup>40</sup>. On October 7, the Houthis carried out a terrorist attack with a hand grenade targeting a gathering of soldiers from the security belt of the Southern Transitional Council while they were at a checkpoint at the entrance to the city of Al-Houta, the capital of Lahj governorate, wounding 7 of the security belt forces<sup>41</sup>. On October 14, al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack with an explosive device that targeted a military patrol carrying many soldiers of the Southern Joint Forces at one of the entrances to the city of "Al-Mahfad" in Abyan Governorate, killing one soldier and wounding two others<sup>42</sup>. On October 16, the Houthis carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting a prominent Yemeni diplomat as he left his home in the capital, Sana'a, killing a former Yemeni diplomat<sup>43</sup>. On October 20, unknown persons carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive device targeting a vehicle belonging to a prominent Yemeni security official in the town of "Al-Nasb" in Ataq, Shabwa Governorate, southern Yemen, killing the security official's son and wounding another soldier<sup>44</sup>. On October 22, al-Qaeda carried out a terrorist attack

<sup>40</sup> الجيش اليمني يحيط هجمات الحوثيين على تعز، الوطن، 6 أكتوبر، 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vmdhYM>

<sup>41</sup> هجوم يقنبله يدوية يستهدف حاجز تفتيش لقوات الحزام الأمني في الحوطة، debriefer 7 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3YWvBp9>

<sup>42</sup> قتلى وجرحى بهجوم إرهابي جديد للقاعدة جنوبي اليمن، العين الإخبارية، 14 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vjFeR2>

<sup>43</sup> الحوثيين يصفون دبلوماسيا يمتيا بارزا في صنعاء، العين الإخبارية، 16 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3I7MZkS>

<sup>44</sup> نجاة مسؤول أمني يمني بارز من محاولة اغتيال في شبوة، العين الإخبارية، 19 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3FRNAUI>

with an explosive device targeting an ambulance of the southern forces in the Al-Mahfad district in Abyan governorate, killing a doctor and 3 other soldiers<sup>45</sup>.

On November 1, al-Qaeda carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive device targeting a military vehicle belonging to the Security Belt forces while it was stopping in Wadi Hamra in the Al-Mahfad district, east of Abyan governorate, wounding two soldiers of the Security Belt forces<sup>46</sup>. On November 8, unknown persons carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting the advisor to the Yemeni Minister of Defense, Major General Muhammad al-Jaradi, while he was passing through the town of Al-Saila, located between the directorates of the city of Marib and Al-Wadi, killing the advisor to the Minister of Defense and his driver<sup>47</sup>. On November 12, the Houthis carried out a terrorist attack with ballistic missiles, targeting a residential village in the Qadash area, north of Karsh district, in the Al-Qabaita district, in Lahj governorate, southern Yemen, killing 5 civilians and injuring 9 others, including children<sup>48</sup>. On November 26, al-Qaeda carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive device targeting a military vehicle of the giants' forces in the town of "Al-Nasara" in Shabwa Governorate, killing one soldier and wounding another<sup>49</sup>.

On December 9, al-Qaeda carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting a convoy of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the remote area of Al-Ruwaik between the governorates of Hadramout and Marib, eastern Yemen, killing two soldiers and wounding 4 others<sup>50</sup>. On December 12, the Houthis carried out a terrorist attack with explosive-laden drones, targeting children who were on their way to school in the town of "Al-Dair" in the Hayran district of Hajjah governorate, killing a Yemeni child and injuring 2 others<sup>51</sup>. On December 26, al-Qaeda carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive device targeting a security patrol near the town of "Wadi al-Khayala" in the al-Mahfad district of Abyan governorate, southern Yemen, killing two soldiers and wounding 3 others<sup>52</sup>.

## 5. Saudi Arabia:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came fifth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out 26 terrorist operations, which is much less

<sup>45</sup> قتل بينهم طبيب في هجوم لـ"القاعدة" الإرهابي جنوبي اليمن، العين الإخبارية، 22 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WQVc0y>

<sup>46</sup> إصابة جنديين من الحزام الأمني بانفجار عبوة ناسفة في المحفد، debriefer، 1 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Q2DmWr>

<sup>47</sup> اغتيال مستشار وزير الدفاع اليمني في مأرب، العين الإخبارية، 8 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3jJLGhu>

<sup>48</sup> قصف حوثي يستهدف قرية في لحج.. ومقتل وإصابة 14 بينهم أطفال، العوئية، 12 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WTrdFv>

<sup>49</sup> المرجع السابق نفسه.

<sup>50</sup> اليمن: مقتل جنديين في هجوم على قافلة لبعثة دولية، اسكاي نيوز عربية، 10 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WCfk26>

<sup>51</sup> جريمة حوثية جديدة.. مقتل وإصابة 3 أطفال غربي اليمن، العين الإخبارية، 12 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3i88aZ9>

<sup>52</sup> قتيلا و3 جرحى بهجوم لـ"القاعدة" في أبين اليمنية، العين الإخبارية، 26 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3VAfIHl>

compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 149. The operations killed 0 and 28 injured for them, less than in 2021, which killed two people and 42 injured.

In the first quarter of 2022, the Houthis targeted the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with about 25 terrorist operations, a wide spectrum of these operations directed towards the southern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia bordering northern Yemen, which is the closest point from which the Houthis can launch drones and ballistic missiles. Perhaps what is remarkable about the operations carried out by the Houthis in the first quarter is the intensification of the attack on civilian areas and objects, which left 28 injured. For example, on January 18, the Houthis carried out a terrorist attack with 8 explosive-laden drones launched at separate areas inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia<sup>53</sup>, but there were no casualties. On February 12, the Houthis led a drone attack targeting Abha International Airport, injuring 12 civilians. This attack was followed by another drone attack targeting civilians at King Abdullah Airport in Jazan in southern Saudi Arabia, killing 18 civilians, some of whom were in critical condition. Researchers at Maat have previously seen that the Houthis are seeking, by intensifying attacks against civilian objects, to create a public opinion within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that calls for an end to the war in Yemen. The Houthis did not take into account the protection granted under international humanitarian law to schools, as they are among the civilian objects that are prohibited from being targeted in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international.

In the third quarter of 2022, since the armistice in Yemen entered into force on April 2, 2022, the Houthi militia, a group described as terrorist by Security Council Resolution No. 2624, has not carried out any terrorist operations that cross the borders of the areas it controls. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remained safe from these attacks throughout the validity of the truce, which was renewed twice before October 2022, as neither party to the conflict in Yemen agreed to renew it. These developments were followed by threats made by the Houthi forces' spokesman, Yahya Saree, to the parties to the conflict in Yemen. Although there were cross-border terrorist operations that did not affect Saudi Arabia, on August 13, 2022, a suicide bomber carried out a terrorist attack with an explosive belt in Jeddah, injuring a civilian and three military personnel, before the terrorist Abdullah Al-Shehri was neutralized.

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<sup>53</sup> التحالف يدمر 8 مسيرات مفخخة ويكبد الحوثيين خسائر في مأرب، الشرق الاوسط، 18 يناير 2022، <https://bit.ly/3IBUahM>

The security forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will remain vigilant in light of the recent social transformations, which are represented in giving women more space in Saudi society, opening cinemas, and reviving concerts. These transformations may result in the emergence of extremist groups planning similar operations in the coming months.

## 6. Sudan:

Sudan came sixth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out 22 terrorist operations, which is slightly more compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 15. The victims of operations were 244 dead and 32 injured in 2022, which is much higher in the number of dead and less the number of injured, which resulted in 51 dead and 67 injured in 2021.

In the first quarter of 2022, unknown persons claimed responsibility for 9 terrorist operations, which is an increase of about five terrorist operations. Sudan witnessed 4 terrorist operations in the first quarter of 2021, which were documented by Maat. The victims of these operations were 5 deaths, and nine others are still injured, some of them injured dangerous.

The researchers at Maat attributed the increase of these operations to the interaction of the political impasse in Sudan with terrorism with the transnational organization and the complete inability to control these borders, in addition to tribal violence, especially in Darfur, and social and economic grievances, especially in eastern Sudan, in which about four terrorist operations were carried out. Although Sudan established a special force to combat terrorism on January 17, 2022, terrorist operations continued, which portends a fragile control over the presence and planning of these groups in the second half of this year. Perhaps the number of operations is part of the recent trend of terrorist groups spreading in East Africa, including Sudan.

In the second quarter of 2022, Sudan recorded 6 terrorist operations in the second quarter of 2022, with about three operations retreating from the attacks in the first quarter of the same year. These operations killed 196 and injured 18 others, and the attacks were carried out by the Janjaweed militia.

One of the deadliest attacks on innocent civilians in West Darfur in the past years is a new wave of genocidal violence that is systematically perpetrated with impunity. These attacks took place in conjunction with the former commander of



these militias, Ali Abdel Rahman, being investigated by the International Criminal Court in The Hague on charges of war crimes, which he denied.

In the third quarter of 2022, 4 terrorist operations took place in Sudan during the period covered by the report, which is a slight decline from the operations carried out during the second quarter of 2022, which amounted to about 6 operations, and these operations left two dead and three injured. Darfur remained the region terrorism maintains its activity in Sudan, as three terrorist operations took place.

**In the fourth quarter of 2022**, 3 terrorist operations took place in Sudan during the period covered by the report, which is a slight decline from the operations carried out during the third quarter of 2022. On November 6, unknown terrorists carried out a terrorist attack with machine guns targeting a lorry carrying displaced persons on the road between Kedenir and Marching camp in Southern Darfur injuring 3 displaced people<sup>54</sup>. On November 10, unknown terrorists carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting farmers inside their farm in the village of “Kiqa al-Khail”, 50 km west of Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan state, killing 3 farmers<sup>55</sup>. On December 10, unidentified persons carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting the Al-Hamidiya camp for the displaced in Zalingei, the capital of Central Darfur state, killing one of the displaced and wounding an unknown number<sup>56</sup>.

## 7. Libya:

Libya came seventh in the terrorism index in the Arab region, as terrorist groups carried out 11 terrorist operations, which is less compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 16. The victims of the operations were 26 dead and 9 injured in 2022, which is much higher in the number of dead and less in the number of injured, which claimed the lives of 14 dead and 15 injured in 2021.

In the first quarter of 2022, 7 terrorist operations were carried out on its territory, which was claimed by ISIS, with three terrorist operations. The researchers in Maat were not deterred from verifying any organizations that adopted 4 other operations and attributed these attacks to unknown persons. The final target of the terrorist operations that ISIS claimed in Libya was the Libyan army forces in the areas of Sebha and Umm al-Aranib, and this coincides with what researchers in Maat suggested in previous issues on terrorism in the Arab region, that ISIS aims to enter

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<sup>54</sup> جرحى في هجوم مسلح على طريق كدينير ومعسكر مرشنيج جنوب دارفور، أخبار السودان، 6 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Guv3zl>

<sup>55</sup> قتلى في هجوم مسلح بقرية “كيقا الخيل” جنوب كردفان، أخبار السودان، 11 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Gv8BGi>

<sup>56</sup> السودان.. هجوم مسلح على معسكر نازحين وسط دارفور، الوطن، 29 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3laT7c1>

southern Libya, either for stability or as a base for moving its elements moved to North and West Africa as part of a new strategy for the organization to establish 4 states in Lake Chad, or what is known as the state of the West African region.

In the second quarter of 2022, terrorist operations decreased in Libya compared to the first quarter, Libya recorded three operations compared to about 7 terrorist operations in the first three months of this year. Nevertheless, ISIS and its affiliated branches are still exploiting the vast area in the south to hide and recruit other gunmen, through which they plan to launch operations against the Libyan army and terrorist groups take advantage of the political fragmentation between the head of the Government of National Unity bears, whose term has expired, and Pasha Agha, elected from the Libyan Parliament in February 2022, to undertake the planning and implementation of other operations in southern Libya, where the branches of ISIS.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, terrorist operations in Libya decreased to one operation, after they usually stopped again in the third quarter. On October 7, unknown persons carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting the Rabiana Security Directorate of Kufra, southeastern Libya, near the borders with Chad and Sudan. Two policemen were killed, and 7 others were wounded<sup>57</sup>.

## 8. Tunisia:

Tunisia came eighth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out 7 terrorist operations, which is slightly more compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 6. The operations killed one person and 6 injured in 2022, which is much higher in the number of deaths and less in the number of injured, which resulted in 7 dead and 0 injured in 2021.

In the first quarter of 2022, three terrorist operations were carried out, a slight increase compared to the first quarter of 2021, in which one terrorist operation was in Tunisia. The three operations during the period covered by the report resulted in the assassination of a captain in the National Guard named Mohsen bin Muhammad and the wounding of a soldier on patrol in the Bir Sultan area, the state of Kebili, south of Tunisia and they are two separate operations, while the third operation came on March 20, 2022, when armed men attacked a barracks of the National Guard with machine guns. In Kairouan, central Tunisia, the accident did not result in any casualties. The file of returnees from Syria remains the most dangerous in dealing

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<sup>57</sup> قتيلاان في هجوم مسلح على مقر مديرية أمن في جنوب ليبيا، 24، 7 أكتوبر 2022 ، <https://bit.ly/3WZX2fX>

with the fight against terrorism in Tunisia, especially in light of the fragility of the political situation in light of the exceptional decisions taken by Tunisian President Kais Saied on July 25, 2021, based on the text of Article 80 of the constitution, represented in suspending parliament and lifting immunity. The ability to curb terrorism in Tunisia remains linked to the vigilance of the security forces, dealing with caution with the file of returnees from ISIS, who constitute about 2,000 people, and the rehabilitation of their children and women.

In the second quarter of 2022, Tunisia recorded a single terrorist operation, as unidentified persons injured two policemen in June 2022 in an attack on a Jewish synagogue in the center of the Tunisian capital by a terrorist who was being prosecuted. In any case, this is a decline in the rate of terrorist operations in Tunisia compared to the first quarter, in the current year, in which terrorist groups carried out three terrorist operations.

In the third quarter of 2022, three terrorist operations took place in Tunisia during the reporting period, leaving two soldiers and a member of the Tunisian security forces injured, which means that the security forces and the army were a target for terrorist groups. Two operations were carried out in Bine Kasserine and one in Mahdia governorate. Armed elements affiliated with ISIS in Libya are still active in the border governorates bordering Tunisia, which may pose an additional threat to the security forces. Also, the continuation of unilateral political measures, the state of political stalemate in Tunisia, and the shabby state of the economy may push some young people to join terrorist organizations in the coming months.

## 9. UAE:

The UAE came ninth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out 4 terrorist operations, which is much more compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 0. In 2022, the victims of operations were three killed and six injured.

In the first quarter of 2022, the United Arab Emirates remained far from the Houthi missiles and their drones, but after the giant brigades made successive field gains in Shabwa Governorate and in some districts of Marib Governorate in Yemen, the Houthis tried to send a message stating that the UAE is not safe after the group claimed that The UAE supported these forces, and although the UAE does not have direct borders with the areas under the control of the Houthis, it was targeted by three terrorist operations, while another operation was carried out by a faction called

the Brigades of True Promise, which is a faction loyal to Iran. The most violent terrorist attack was carried out by the Houthis on January 17, 2022, with five ballistic and winged missiles and a large number of drones, targeting fuel tanks in the Mussafah ICAD area, near the ADNOC tanks and in the new construction area at Abu Dhabi International Airport. As a result, three civilians were killed, and six others were wounded<sup>58</sup>.

### 10. Egypt:

Egypt ranked tenth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out 4 terrorist operations, In the second quarter of 2022, Egypt recorded two terrorist operations, a slight increase compared to the first quarter during which no terrorist operations were carried out. Rafah and Sheikh Zuweid were only hiding in the villages of Al-Multa, Al-Husseinat, and Balaa, from which they set out to carry out these terrorist operations

In the fourth quarter of 2022, Egypt recorded two terrorist attacks. On November 4, unknown persons carried out a terrorist attack with knives and Molotov cocktails, targeting a police car in front of the Western Munira police station in Giza Governorate, without any deaths or injuries<sup>59</sup>. On November 30, unidentified persons carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting the security checkpoint established in the residential neighborhood of Al-Salam (the ambush of the Al-Salihin Mosque) in the city of Ismailia, in the north-east of the country, killing 3 Egyptian policemen and wounding 11 others<sup>60</sup>.

### 11. Algeria:

Algeria came eleventh in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out 3 terrorist operations, which is much more compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 2. The victims of the operations were 6 dead and no injured in 2022, equal to the number of dead and more than the number of injured, which killed 6 and three injured in 2021.

In the first quarter of 2022, Algeria suffered two terrorist attacks. The first operation was carried out on January 28, 2022, when a terrorist with machine guns attacked Algerian soldiers on the border strip in the Hassi region in Ain Guezzam, on

<sup>58</sup> مقتل ثلاثة أشخاص في انفجار صهاريح محروقات بأبوظبي والإمارات تندد بـ"اعتداء حوثي أثم"، france24، 17 يناير 2022، <https://bit.ly/3wCc55k>

<sup>59</sup> الشرطة المصرية تقتل شخصاً هاجم قسماً بالزجاجات الحارقة، الخليج، 4 نوفمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3GrBxhx>  
<sup>60</sup> مقتل 3 من الشرطة المصرية في هجوم بالإسماعيلية، بي بي سي، 31 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bbc.in/3WSGZAo>

the border with Niger, in the tower of Baji Mukhtar on the border with Mali<sup>61</sup>. Perhaps the most important indicator in this context is the cross-border terrorist activity, which some have suggested is due to the security tension in the Sahel region, especially in light of the French forces' readiness to leave Mali, which is what terrorist groups are preparing to do to exploit the security vacuum resulting from the exit of the French forces. Algeria has a border of 1,359 km with Mali, 951 km with Niger, and about a thousand km with Libya, which makes it necessary to activate anti-terrorism operations and vigilance of security forces in these areas.

In the third quarter of 2022, Algeria suffered one terrorist operation, which took place on July 6, 2022, after an armed attack targeted the Algerian army in the Ain Defla region, western Algeria, which led to the death of a corporal in the Algerian army, Slaoui Samir. According to a report issued by the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the security forces have succeeded in curbing terrorism, thanks to preemptive strikes and the popular rejection of extremist ideas. Nevertheless, the number of operations that occurred in Algeria during the first nine months of 2022 exceeds the total number of operations in 2021.

## 12.Jordan:

Jordan ranked twelfth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out two terrorist operations, which is more compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 0. The victims of the operations were 4 dead and 7 injured in 2022, which is more in the number of dead and more in the number of injured, with 0 dead and 0 injured in 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, Jordan witnessed two terrorist operations. On December 16, 2022, unknown persons carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting the Jordanian police forces in the Hussainiya area in Ma'an Governorate, in southern Jordan, killing a police officer with the rank of colonel and wounding 2 other police officers<sup>62</sup>. On December 19 of the same year, unidentified persons carried out a terrorist attack with automatic weapons targeting the Jordanian police forces during a raid on a terrorist cell in the al-Husayniyyah area in Ma'an governorate, killing 3 police officers and wounding 5 others<sup>63</sup>.

<sup>61</sup> الجزائر تعلن مقتل 3 عسكريين في اشتباك مع "إرهابيين" على حدود مالي، الأناضول، 20 مارس 2022، <https://bit.ly/3qDwbIG>

<sup>62</sup> كشف تفاصيل مقتل الضابط الأردني الدلابيح في معان، العربية، 16 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3VAOJ9k>

<sup>63</sup> الأردن.. مقتل 3 شرطييين بعملية مدهامة المتهم بقتل الدلابيح، العربية، 19 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3GxklbF>

### 13. Morocco:

Morocco ranked thirteenth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out one terrorist operation, which is more compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 0. The operations killed one person and injured one in 2022, which is more in the number of deaths and more in the number of injured, with 0 dead and 0 injured since 2021.

In the first quarter of 2022, Morocco witnessed one terrorist attack, and the operation was carried out on January 15, 2022, after a terrorist attack with white weapons targeted French and a Belgian tourist inside a market in the city of Tiznit near the Agadir region<sup>64</sup>. The 79-year-old victim was shopping in Tiznit when she was hit in the head by the terrorist before attacking another woman in Agadir before being arrested by Moroccan security forces and transferred, after interrogation, to a psychiatric hospital.

Morocco did not witness any terrorist operations in the past year, and it maintained its record free of terrorist operations, thanks to intelligence cooperation with neighboring countries and preemptive strikes. Al-Modon was the destination of these organizations to indoctrinate, recruit, and convince them of extremist ideas, which was revealed by the Central Office for Judicial Research in Morocco, and the latter had arrested, on January 26, 2022, two persons the age of 23, after they were suspected of having links with the terrorist organization ISIS, who were recruited through the Internet, and training in the manufacture of explosive devices to carry out operations in the Moroccan countryside.

### 14. Lebanon:

Lebanon ranked fourteenth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out one terrorist operation, which is much less compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 5. There was one death and no injured in the operations in 2022, which is more in the number of dead and more in the number of injured, with 12 dead and 32 injured since 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, Lebanon witnessed one terrorist attack. On December 15, 2022, unknown persons carried out a terrorist attack with light machine guns that targeted a convoy of two armored vehicles within the United

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<sup>64</sup> "شبهة دوافع إرهابية" بمقتل سائحة فرنسية في المغرب، sky news Arabia، 19 يناير 2022، <https://bit.ly/35cRidk>



Nations peacekeeping mission while it was heading to Beirut, killing an Irish soldier from the forces of the UNIFIL, and 3 others were wounded<sup>65</sup>.

### 15. Djibouti:

Djibouti ranked fifteenth in the terrorism index in the Arab region, where terrorist groups carried out one terrorist operation, which is more compared to 2021 when the number of terrorist operations was 0. There were 7 deaths and 4 injuries in the operations in 2022, which is more in the number of deaths and more in the number of injured, with 0 deaths and 0 injuries since 2021.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, Djibouti witnessed one terrorist operation. On October 8, 2022, the Front for the Restoration of Democratic Unity carried out a terrorist attack with machine guns targeting army barracks at the Garabtisan military base in northern Djibouti, killing 7 soldiers and wounding 4 others<sup>66</sup>.

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<sup>65</sup> إطلاق نار على قافلة لقوات اليونيفيل جنوب لبنان يؤدي إلى مقتل جندي وإصابة 3 آخرين، euro news، 15 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3CaQ0wM>

<sup>66</sup> مقتل 7 وإصابة 4 آخرين جراء هجوم إرهابي شمال جيبوتي، اليوم السابع، 8 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3la5t45>

## Conclusions & Recommendations

Despite the significant decrease in the number of terrorist operations in the Arab region in the second quarter of 2022 compared to the first quarter of the same year, terrorist groups in Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Yemen are still able to plan and carry out terrorist operations in the coming years. The political division and lack of unification of security and military institutions continue to be an incentive for terrorist groups to recruit new individuals and carry out more terrorist operations. Perhaps the fragility of the Arab countries involved in internal conflicts with armed groups, the promotion of sectarianism as a substitute for citizenship, the lack of arms in the hands of the state, the soft borders between some countries, the exacerbation of hate speech in times of crises and unrest, and the weak political consensus in a group of Arab countries that are going through periods a faltering transition, all of which are reasons that enabled terrorist groups in the Arab region, especially ISIS, Al Qaeda, Al Shabaab, and the Houthis, to exploit these factors in order to adapt to their previous losses and the ability to stand firm, to pose a real threat to national security in Arab countries. On this basis, **Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents the following recommendations:**

- Consider amending the third paragraph of Article 1 of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism to include terrorist attacks in which drones are used as a terrorist crime;
- Urging the countries that have not yet ratified the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism to complete the ratification procedures and deposit the ratification documents with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States;
- Enhancing intelligence cooperation between Arab countries and foreign powers in a way that guarantees to take preemptive steps to limit the occurrence of terrorist attacks;
- Imposing strict international control over the movement of international funding provided to terrorist groups in a way that enables these groups to implement their subversive plans;
- Imposing strict international control over the movement of weapons and equipment used by these organizations in carrying out their terrorist acts against civilians and military personnel in Arab countries;

- Working on promoting religious tolerance and combating hate speech, investing in programs for the rights of women and religious minorities, as well as providing social services to deserving groups, all of which are solutions that limit the conditions that promote terrorism;
- Expanding scientific and academic studies that identify the causes of extremism and terrorism, applying their results on the ground, revising educational curricula, and working on developing tools to monitor hate speech in Arab countries;
- Working to promote the principles of peaceful dialogue in order to heal the rift between the warring tribes in Sudan, especially in Darfur, and to take the necessary measures to ensure that it does not slide into new civil wars, in which civilians and soldiers alike will be victims;
- Participation in global counter-terrorism forums to allow the exchange of expertise, information and good experiences, and to enhance the ability of countries to curb terrorism;
- Measures to prevent and confront terrorism should not be used as a tool to silence dissent and impose restrictions on civil society and human rights defenders;
- Request support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in building capacity on financial investigations;
- Strengthening the judicial system in Arab conflict areas, which contributes to combating the spread of impunity and strengthening the rule of law.