

# ARAB REGION

## Terrorism Index

### in the Arab region

(July - September 2022)

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## Introduction

1. “ISIS and its affiliated groups exploit conflict, fragility of governance, and inequality to instigate, plan, and orchestrate terrorist attacks”, said the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, Vladimir Voronkov, during his presentation of the fifteenth report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the threat of the terrorist organization "ISIS" to international peace and security, in August 2022. The previous statement agrees with what **Maat for Peace, development, and human rights**, has documented while tracking terrorist operations in the third quarter of 2022.
2. ISIS is still in Iraq and Syria, and its affiliates are in other regions in the Arab countries. Al-Shabab movement in Somalia threatens security and stability in the Arab countries. Among the outcomes of the Jeddah Summit for Security and Development on July 15-16, 2022, was the agreement on the need to strengthen regional and international efforts to combat terrorism, violent extremism, prevent the financing, arming, and terrorist group recruitment of all individuals and entities.
3. From July 1 to September 30, 2022, Maat documented using a tool tracking terrorist operations in the Arab region, 135 terrorist attacks in eight Arab countries; this is a slight increase in terrorist operations in the Arab region in the second quarter of 2022, only 123 terrorist attacks were carried out. These operations claimed the lives of 307 people while injuring 398 others. These operations targeted soldiers and civilians and resulted in 155 military deaths and 241 injuries, while 152 civilians were killed and 157 were wounded. The military constituted about 50.4% of the total killed in terrorist operations and about 60% of the total casualties. Somalia topped the index of terrorist operations, deaths, and injuries in the period covered by the report.
4. Al-Shabab is a threat to the unity and stability of Somalia. In its latest report, Maat shares the opinion of the Group of Experts on Somalia that the movement has an influence in the central and south regions of Somalia that makes it viable. It facilitates the movement process, manoeuvring, and the ability to plan and implement coordinated operations in different regions, some of which cross the borders of Somalia.
5. ISIS was the first terrorist group to adopt terrorist operations in the Arab region during the reporting period, 35 terrorist attacks were claimed and attributed to them. However, ISIS has been following a new strategy recently, as it does not announce all its operations weekly in its newspaper Al-Naba. Reports suggest there is a deliberate pattern to reduce terrorist operations and to be satisfied with attacks outside its safe dens as part of a strategy to consolidate the organization's presence without attracting attention.
6. Despite the pre-emptive strikes directed at the organization and its affiliated branches. ISIS is still able to move and manoeuvre in Syria and Iraq. The Iraqi-Syrian borders are the movement areas, and ISIS militants range from 6 to 10 thousand fighters who live in rural and mountainous areas and hide away from the security forces. The Arab region needs to confront terrorism by unconventional means and prevent its causes, especially social and economic grievances and the conditions in which it arose. Terrorism in the Arab region will only end with the intensification of intelligence and security cooperation and the initiation of practical steps to prevent external interference in the affairs of Arab countries and the exchange of good practices, good experiences, and lessons learned with the member states of the United Nations.

## Why the Terrorism Index in the Arab Region

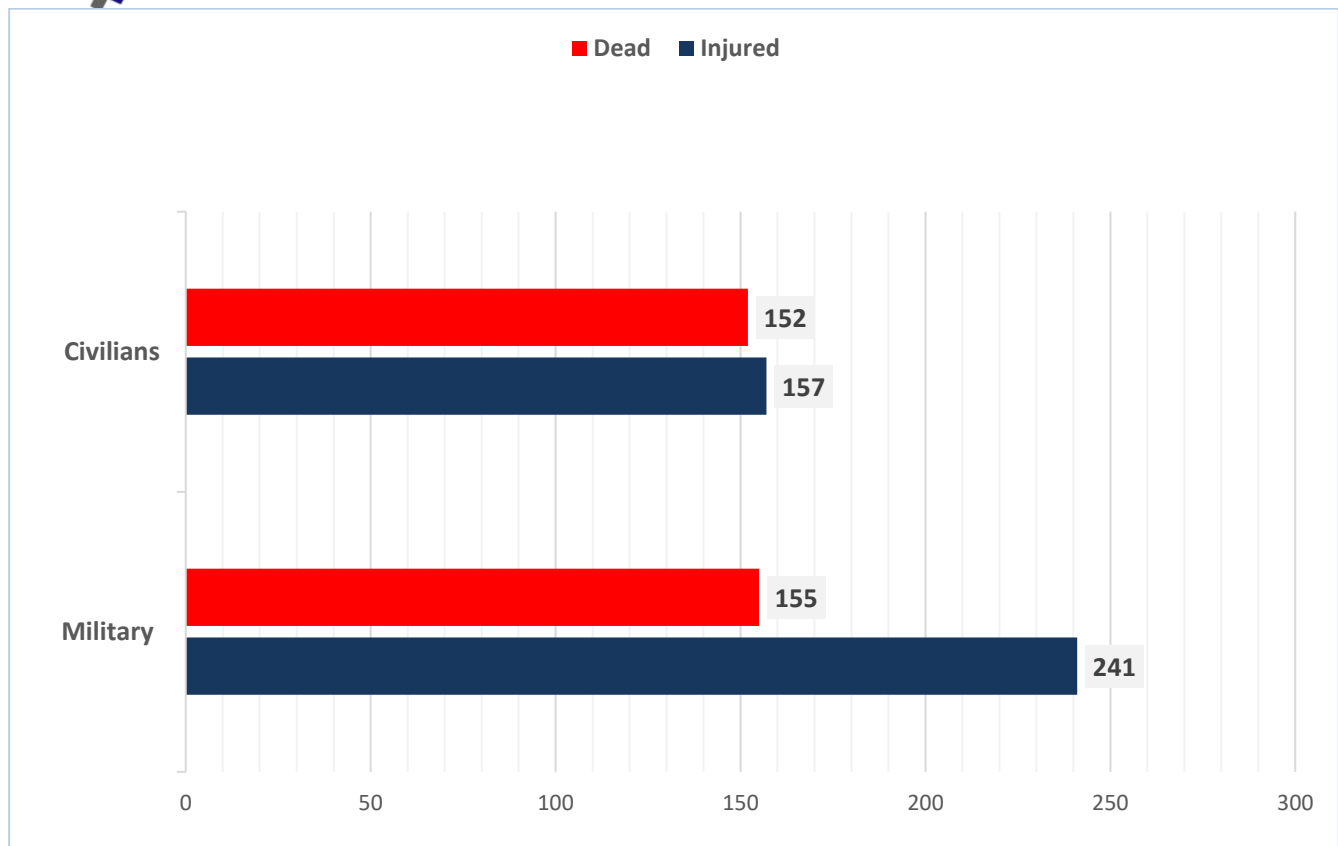
7. Maat addresses the terrorism phenomenon in the Arab region as a part of the Arab report it issues annually. However, starting from 2021, Maat found a need to develop an indicator of terrorism in the Arab region separately. Within the above framework, Maat issued successively quarterly reports on terrorism 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.
8. Maat decided to issue this indicator quarterly and a 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. It attempts to dismantle the factors that contributed to the exacerbation of terrorist operations in an Arab country and their extinction in another Arab country. And 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.

## Methodology

9. 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.
10. The report also uses systems thinking 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.

## Statistics and Indications of Terrorist Operations

11. The number of terrorist operations in the Arab region increased again in the third quarter of 2022. By 135 terrorist operations, a slight increase over the operations adopted or attributed to terrorist groups in the second quarter, which amounted to about 123 terrorist operations. Maat has verified these operations with a tool to track analyze and verify these operations.
12. As a result of these operations, 307 soldiers and civilians were killed, while 398 others were injured. In Maat's tracking of the victims of these operations, 155 soldiers were killed, which represents 50.5% of the total dead. 241 others were injured, 152 civilians were killed, which is 49.5% of the total dead, and 157 others were wounded.



*Figure 1: victims of terrorist operations in the third quarter of 2022*

13. Since the Terrorism Index in the Arab Region issued by Maat, the countries of conflict and the Arab countries in transition periods such as Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, and Sudan have been the country's most recording terrorist operations. Terrorist groups in the Arab region carried out 130 terrorist operations in the five countries, 96.3% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region, in the third quarter of 2022.
14. Maat attributed the continuation of terrorist operations in the Arab region to the imbalance of security coordination between the various agencies and the lack of unification of security institutions in the countries in conflict. In addition, the persistence of social and economic grievances in other countries, the weakness of counter-terrorism measures, and the inability of national armies to control all the lands they rule. In addition to the faltering of the political process in some Arab countries, terrorist groups exploit to recruit new individuals and plan and carry out other operations. Iraq is still suffering, and the choice of a prime minister, Muhammad al-Sudani, was not agreed upon by everyone. Some consider him as the coordination framework that includes Nour al-Maliki, who led a political rivalry that delayed the appointment of the Iraqi prime minister for about 10 months.
15. For the first time since the beginning of the year, Libya did not record any terrorist operations due to the Libyan army efforts. It arrested and killed the terrorist cells and elements during the period covered by the report, including the perpetrator of the massacre of the Egyptian Copts, Mahdi Dango, who was killed in September 2022. The Libyan territories are free from attacks due to the military coordination between the security institutions in eastern and western Libya after the meeting that brought these institutions together on July 19, 2022. The meeting resulted in a joint statement between these institutions that called for the rejection of violence and internal fighting. However, the continued existence of two parallel governments

may push Libya to terrorism again, especially in light of the concentration of an estimated 100 militants affiliated with ISIS in large areas in the southern region.

16. Somalia came in the highest index of terrorism in the Arab region in the third quarter of 2022, with 42 terrorist attacks, representing 31% of the total terrorist operations during the third quarter in the Arab region. The same country also topped the death and injury index, with 173 dead and 191 wounded. Despite the establishment of a one-year transitional mission by the African Union to protect civilians and confront Al-Shabaab, and despite the optimism brought about by the election of a new president for Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, this did not prevent the movement from continuing to carry out attacks on almost the same pace.
17. Iraq came second in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region in the third quarter with 34 terrorist operations; it came second in the index of deaths and injuries with about 46 dead and nearly 69 wounded. Syria remained third in the index of the terrorist operation in the third quarter of 2022 with 31 terrorist attacks, while it came fourth in the death and injured index with 41 dead and 57 wounded. Yemen came fourth in the index of terrorist operations in the Arab region in the third quarter of 2022 with 19 terrorist operations; it came third in the index of deaths and injuries with 44 dead and about 71 wounded more than the military.

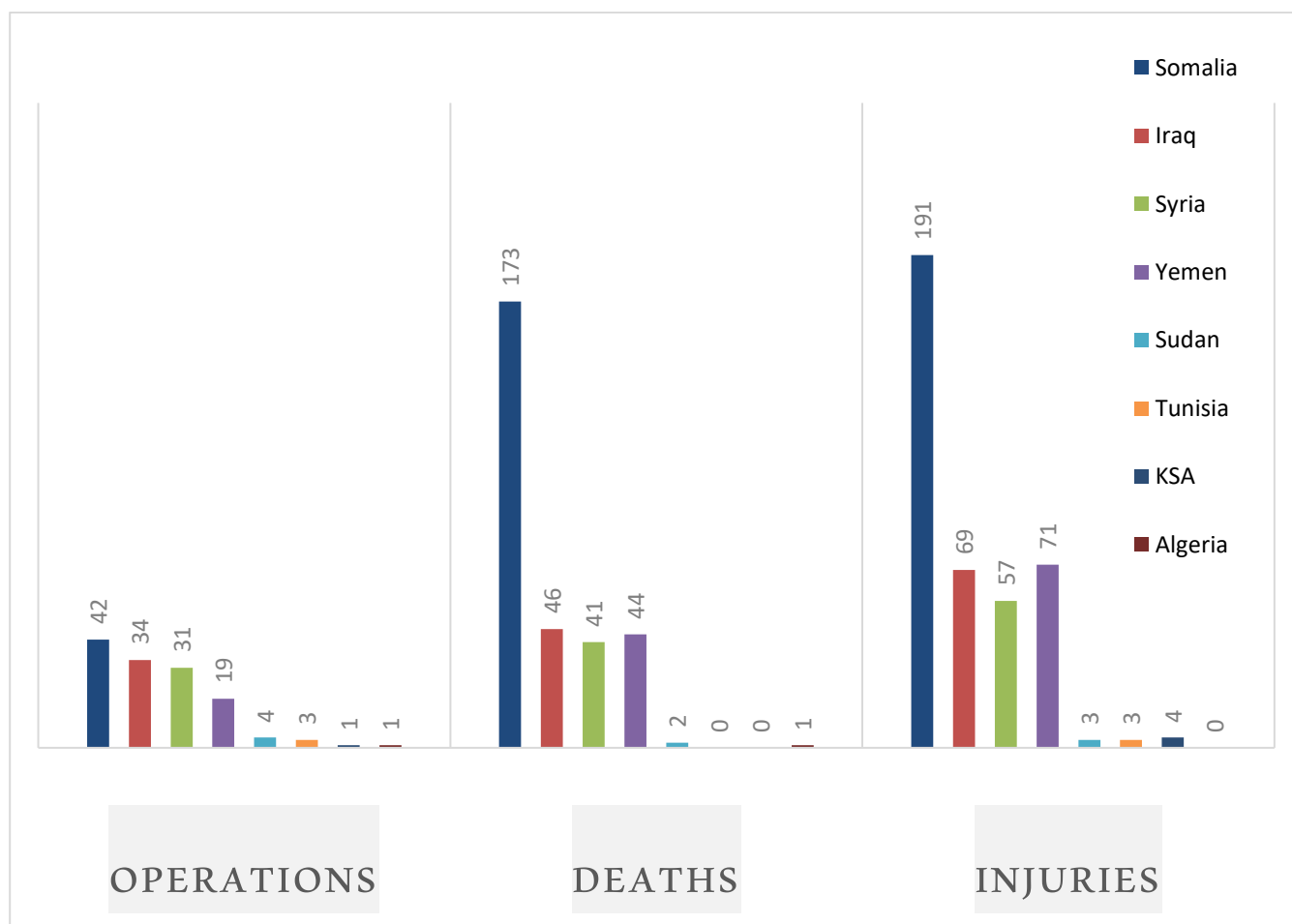


Figure 2: Classification of terrorist operations according to the index of operations, deaths and injuries

18. It is noted from the above figure that Sudan ranked fifth in the index of terrorism in the Arab region with 4 terrorist operations and fifth in the death toll index with two deaths, and sixth equally with Tunisia in the index of casualties with three injuries resulting from terrorist operations in each country, while Algeria ranked sixth in the death toll index, with one victim resulting from a terrorist operation, and eighth in the injured index, while Tunisia ranked sixth in the terrorist operations index, eighth in the death toll index, and sixth equally with Sudan in the injured index. Saudi Arabia ranked eighth in terms of the number of operations, with one operation, while ranked in the same position in the death toll index, as no one was killed as a result of the terrorist attack that took place in Jeddah, while ranked seventh in the casualty index.
19. For the second time since Maat issued the Terrorism Index in the Arab Region, 14 Arab countries maintain their record free of terrorist operations in the third quarter of 2022, which is an improvement on the horizon in terms of counter-terrorism measures and limiting the sources of financing terrorist groups, this improvement is attributed to the validity of the truce between the Houthis and the Presidential Council in Yemen during the period covered by the report, as the Houthis stopped firing their ballistic missiles and drones at neighboring countries in the third quarter of 2022, in addition to the increase in the exchange of best experiences and good practices between Arab countries, United Nations agencies, and the member countries of the Global Coalition to defeat Da'esh, in addition to the increase in measures to combat the financing of terrorism, which was reflected in the decline in the sources of financing terrorist groups, at least during the period covered by the report.

*Table 1 : The Arab countries most affected by terrorism and those free of it*

<b>Terror-free countries</b>	<b>Countries most affected by terrorism</b>
Emirates	Somalia
Qatar	Iraq
Kuwait	Syria
Jordan	Yemen
Lebanon	Sudan
Bahrain	Tunisia
Morocco	Algeria
Egypt	Saudi Arabia
Djibouti	
Comoros	
Oman	
Mauritania	
Palestine	
Libya	

20. Daesh in Syria and Iraq remained the most terrorist organization adopting operations in the third quarter, with 35 terrorist operations, including 30 terrorist operations in Iraq, in addition to five operations in Syrian territories. Daesh continued to implement a strategy of not adopting some of the operations adopted by small cells or other affiliated branches. Through this strategy, Daesh tries to maintain presence without attracting attention except in large operations that require extensive propaganda campaigns. Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia ranked as the second terrorist group to carry out attacks in the covered period, with 26 terrorist operations, most of which occurred in the southwestern state, especially in the Lower Shabelle Region, and in Hiiraan in central Somalia. The movement also maintained an operational ability to carry out attacks in the capital, Mogadishu, some of which targeted local officials in the Somali government.
21. While Al Qaeda in the Peninsula ranked third in terms of the groups most adopting attacks in the third quarter, as it claimed and attributed 11 terrorist operations, all of them in Yemen, and this return is considered as a desire by the organization to create a new reality in Yemen. The mobilization of cooperation prompted Tribalism by al-Qaeda, and social and economic grievances, along with poor coordination between the security institutions in southern Yemen, prompted the elements of Al Qaeda to announce itself again in Yemen after disappearance in the past months.
22. In addition to the above, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham ranked fourth with four terrorist operations in the third quarter, and the Houthi group with two terrorist operations, while the Jund al-Khilafah organization in Tunisia and militias loyal to Iran each adopted one operation for each group.

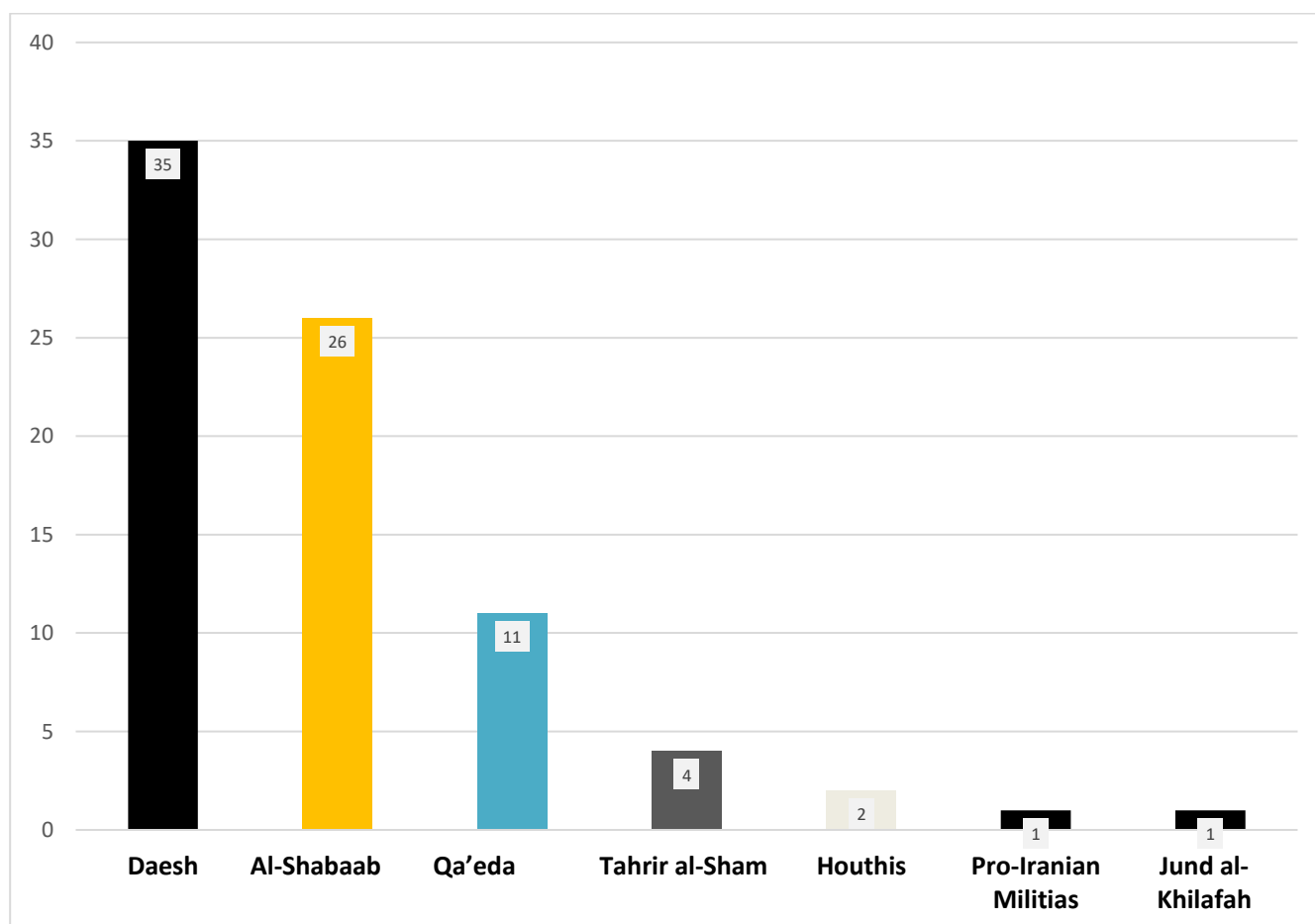


Figure 3: Terrorist groups according to the number of operations

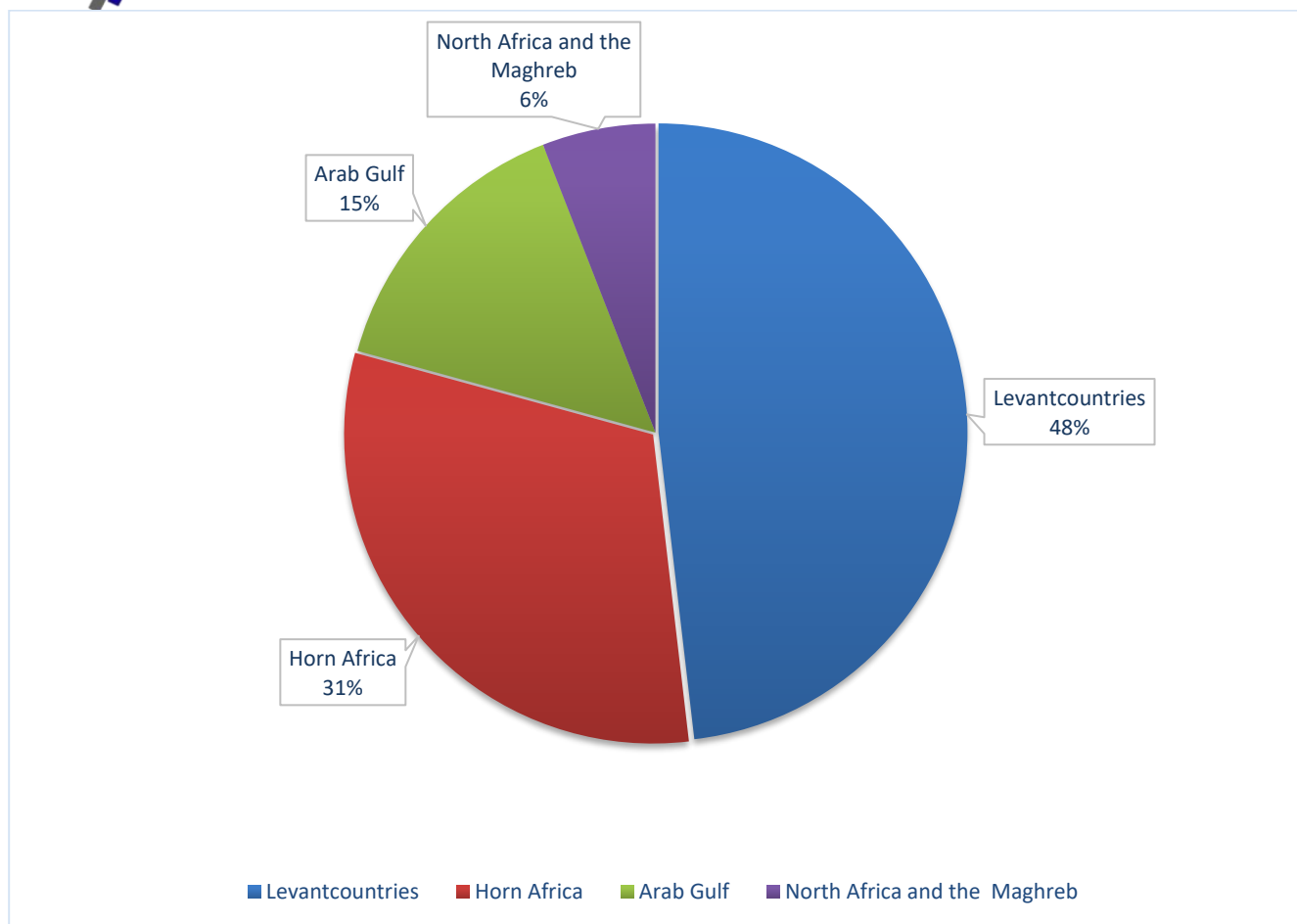
**Note: The Figure did not include 55 operations attributed to unknown persons**



## Terrorism According to Geographical Distribution

- 23.** There is widespread terrorism in geographical areas compared to others in the Arab region in the third quarter. The Levant region, which includes five Arab countries, recorded the largest number of terrorist operations in the third quarter of 2022, with 65 terrorist operations, which is 48% of the total terrorist operations in the third quarter of 2022, but it should be noted that these operations took place in only two countries, namely Iraq and Syria, while none of Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine recorded terrorist operations, this percentage is a decline in the number of terrorist operations compared to the operations that occurred in the second quarter, as 83 terrorist operations were carried out in the Levant, which is 67% of the total terrorist operations in the second quarter of 2022.
- 24.** The Horn of Africa region came after that with 42 terrorist operations, which we think is 31% of the total terrorist operations, all of which took place in Somalia and were carried out by Al-Shabaab. Then the Arab Gulf region, including Yemen, where 20 terrorist operations occurred in Yemen, with 19 terrorist operations, and Saudi Arabia, with one operation, which accounted for 14% of the total terrorist operations.
- 25.** The Maghreb and North Africa region followed with 8 terrorist operations, half of which were carried out in Sudan. The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council maintained that they were the least geographical areas in recording terrorist operations in the Arab region, and with the exception of one operation that occurred in Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, none of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council recorded any terrorist operations on their lands in the period covered by the report, Maat attributed this led to the truce between the Houthis and the Presidential Council in Yemen running until the end of September 2022, and the intensification of efforts to combat and prevent terrorism in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, including tracking social media platforms where recruitment and extremist ideas are rampant, such as the Telegram platform, where the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology "Etidal" deleted 5 million extremist content and closed 2450 extremist channels on this platform and in cooperation with the center, from July 17 to September 13, 2022. Perhaps the efforts led by the UAE in the Security Council to combat terrorism and develop strategies aimed at confronting are further evidence of the ability of the GCC countries to prevent terrorism.

Figure No. (4) Geographical distribution of terrorist operations



## Arms Used in Terrorist Operations

- 26.** Terrorist groups used a variety of arms during the third quarter of 2022, but small and medium arms and machine guns remained the most used, as they carried out 31 terrorist operations, or 22.9% of the total terrorist operations, while terrorist groups used explosive devices to carry out 24 other terrorist operations, at a percentage 17% of the total terrorist operations, while missiles were used in 12 terrorist operations, including 11 in Syria, and one in Iraq. Although most of the missile attacks were attributed to unknown persons, and Maat was unable to identify the actual perpetrators, the pattern in which these missile attacks were carried out may indicate pro-Iranian militias in Syria and Iraq.
- 27.** Terrorist groups used artillery and mortar shells in 9 operations, explosive belts in 4 operations, car bombs in 4 operations as well, and mines in three operations. Drones were used in two terrorist operations in Syria, and Maat notes that the desire of terrorist groups to acquire the components of these drones and manufacture them locally may lead to complex risks for Arab countries. Maat has previously warned of the arrival of these planes to terrorist groups in previous issues.

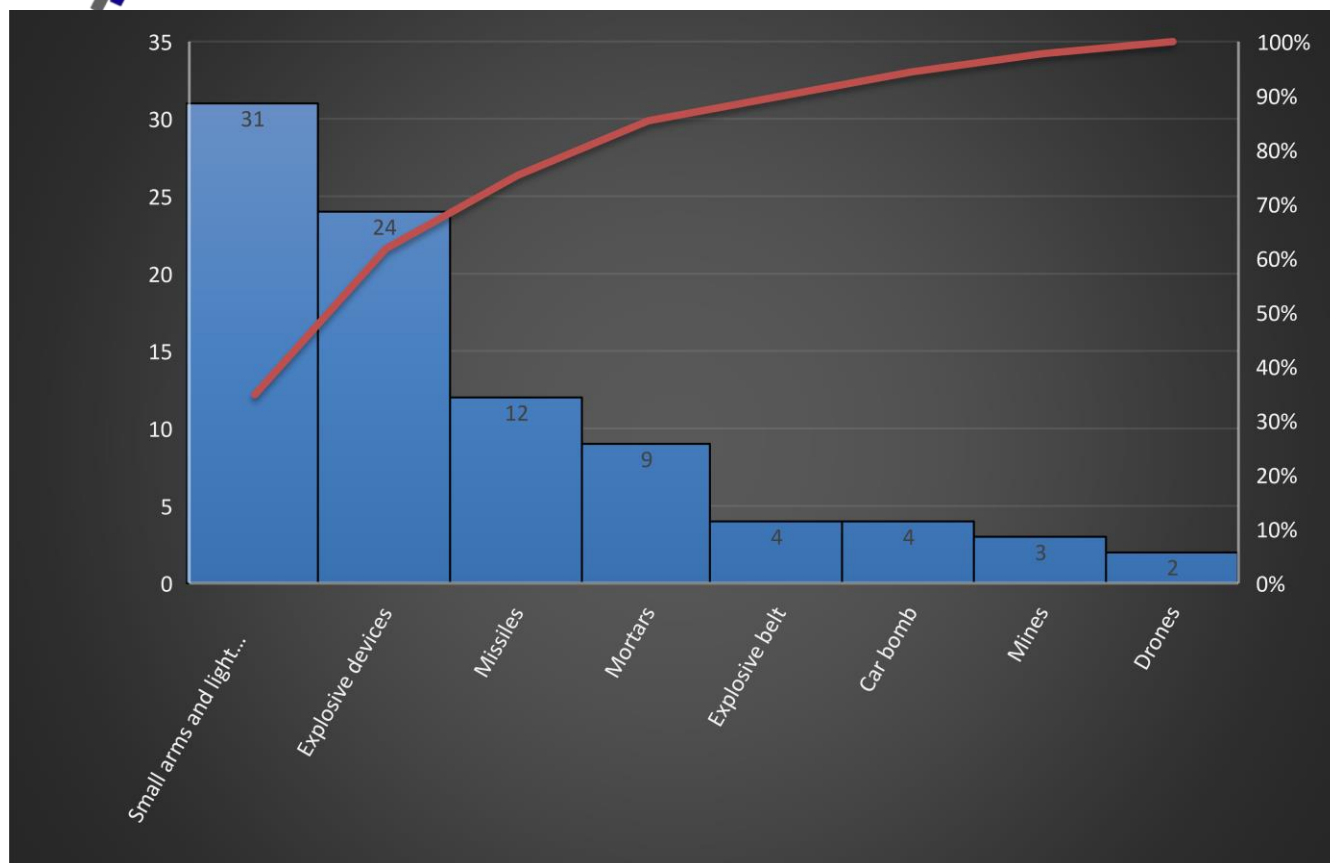


Figure 4: Arms and means used in terrorist operations during the third quarter of 2022

28. The use of these aircraft outside the period covered by the report was evident in Yemen for offensive purposes against neighboring countries, in contravention of the principle of good neighborliness contained in the Charter of the United Nations, while Da’esh in Syria and Iraq, and Al-Shabaab in Somalia used these aircraft for reconnaissance and information gathering purposes, and in few times to carry explosives. The acquisition of more drones by these groups may pose a threat to the national state, in addition to causing heavy losses among civilians, civilian objects, and economic facilities, while Maat did not specify the arms used by terrorist groups in 46 terrorist operations in eight Arab countries.
29. It should be noted that the Conventional Arms Trade Treaty prohibits the states parties from taking measures to prevent and divert these weapons to terrorist groups, especially some of the weapons mentioned in Article 2 of the Convention, such as small and light arms, missiles and the devices used to launch them, which are arms used by terrorist groups in the Arab region during the reporting period.
30. The Arab countries signatories to the Arms Trade Treaty are required to exchange information for arms transfers, according to the fifth paragraph of Article 11 of the treaty, and this information may include; Illegal international routes for arms trafficking, or illegal intermediaries. External parties that facilitate the arrival of arms to terrorist groups are also required to stop these practices under the agreement as well.

## Terrorism in the Arab region: an Analytical View

31. Maat noted a slight increase in the number of terrorist operations in the third quarter of 2022, compared to the second quarter, as terrorist groups claimed 135 terrorist operations in the reporting period compared to 123 terrorist operations in the second quarter of 2022. This slight increase is because of the ability of Da’esh in Syria and Iraq to plan and carry out coordinated operations in different regions, especially in the Diyala

triangle, Salah al-Din, and Kirkuk. Despite the preemptive strikes and efforts to combat terrorism in the two countries, Da'esh still enjoys the freedom of movement between the Iraqi-Syrian borders. Al-Shabaab's capacity in Somalia, both operational and functional, has also continued to evolve. Al-Qaeda's disappearance in Yemen also seemed to be a part of the past, as the organization claimed 11 terrorist operations, most of them in southern Yemen and against forces supported by the Southern Transitional Council.

## Somalia

32. Terrorist groups carried out 42 terrorist operations in Somalia in the third quarter of 2022. Of these operations, Al-Shabab claimed (26) terrorist operations, accounting for (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 largest number of deaths and injuries in the Arab region during the third quarter of 2022, with 173 dead and about 193 injured, both civilians and military personnel.
33. It is clear from the distribution of terrorist operations carried out by Al-Shabab that it has the ability and dynamism to carry out coordinated attacks in different regions of Somalia. Including access to the capital, Mogadishu, but the majority of operations are concentrated in the state of southwestern Somalia. Maat shares the opinion of the Group of Experts on Somalia in its latest report, which considered that Al-Shabab 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.
34. Despite the optimism that prevailed after the speech aimed at combating terrorism by the current President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud, who was determined to confront the Al-Shabab, Maat's analysis of the operations carried out by this group suggests with a high degree of confidence, that the those still has unconventional capabilities to carry out operations among them: Renewed financial capacity, and the ability to collect vital information, and this is evident in tracking down the Minister of Justice in the government of the state of western Somalia on July 29, 2022 and targeting him by a suicide bomber, which led to the death of the Minister and the wounding of 11 others. Although this group did not officially adopt this operation, there are indications that it responsible for this attack. Nevertheless, 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 confrontations between the Al-Shabab group and the Somali forces, in light of each party's insistence on displaying its control and its ability to weaken the other party.

## Iraq

35. 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, and these operations claimed the lives of 46 Iraqis and injured about 69 others, and about 59% of these operations were carried out In three provinces, they are Diyala, Salah al-Din, and Kirkuk, and ISIS 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 mountains range and the Great Water Basin are located, which are areas that ISIS considers safe to hide away from the Iraqi security forces.
36. The organization also maintains separate cells in small groups in the 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 they maintained a small rate of operations in the previous months.
37. The political differences that followed the results of the parliamentary elections between what is known as the Sadrist movement and the coordinating framework led by Nouri al-Maliki continuing shortcomings in confronting terrorism, which gave terrorist groups another opportunity to plan and carry out more operations. And after Muhammad Shia al-Sudani, who some consider to be loyal to Nouri al-Maliki, was

assigned to form the cabinet in October 2022, about 10 months had passed in Iraq without an elected prime minister after the end of Mustafa al-Kadhimi's term.

### Syria:

38. 31 terrorist operations were carried out in the third quarter of 2022 in the Syrian territories, and these operations left 41 dead and 57 injured. ISIS in Syria and other groups that have not declared themselves are still able to move freely in rural areas. Maat noted that about 16 terrorist operations took place in the rural areas of the Syrian governorates, which is 51.6% of the total terrorist operations that took place in Syria during the reporting period. Most of the operations took place 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.
39. The 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-Tanf 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 for fear of the American response, and therefore attributed most of the attacks to unknown persons. This targeting is a continuation of the strategy adopted by pro-Iranian militias since the beginning of 2022, which aims to damage 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.
40. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) only claimed four operations during the period covered by the report, and in general, the movement's operations are declining in terms of operations starting from 2022, and the movement is trying by reducing attacks to appease the United States of America and the European Union in order to remove its name from the lists of terrorist groups, which is a demand that HTS leader Abu Muhammad al-Jawlan announced publicly before, but Washington has not decided on this request. It 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.

### Yemen

41. 19 terrorist operations were carried out in Yemen during the third quarter of 2022, with 44 dead and about 71 injured, and 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 mountainous regions of Yemen. The organization's presence is also concentrated in Shabwa and Al-Bayda, and it is trying to build a similar presence in Hadramout Governorate.
42. The remarkable return of Al-Qaeda to carry out these attacks in Yemen and in different provinces is evidenced by the coordination between the organization's branches in the various provinces of Yemen, and the ability to intelligently plan, implement, and maneuver in these areas. It may seem that the organization has deftly exploited the structural 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.

### Sudan

43. Four 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. These operations left two dead and three injured. Darfur remained the main region in which terrorism maintains its activity there, where three terrorist operations took place in this region.



## Tunisia

44. 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 individual political measures, the state of political stalemate in Tunisia, and the bad state of the economy may push some youth to join terrorist organizations in the coming months.

## Saudi Arabia

45. Since the truce in Yemen, which entered into force on April 2, 2022, the Houthi militia, a group described by Security Council Resolution No. 2624 as terrorist, has not carried out any terrorist operations that cross the borders of the areas it controls, and Saudi Arabia has remained safe from these attacks throughout the validity of the armistice, which lasted It was soon renewed twice before it was stopped in October 2022, as neither of the parties to the conflict in Yemen agreed to renew it. These developments were followed by threats from 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.
46. The security forces in Saudi Arabia will remain vigilant in light of the recent social transformations, which are represented by 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.

## Algeria

47. Algeria suffered one terrorist operation during the third quarter of 2022, which took place on July 6, 2022, after an armed attack targeted the Algerian army in the Ain Defla province in 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 that took place in 2021.

## Conclusions & Recommendations

48. The Arab region is still exposed to the threat of terrorism, which finds in countries involved in armed conflicts, internal conflicts with armed groups, or political conflicts an opportunity to establish a foothold to spread its ideologies and recruit other followers. Perhaps the resurgence of al-Qaeda in Yemen during the third quarter from 2022 and the inability to rein in the Al-Shabab group in Somalia portends a danger that calls for additional efforts to combat terrorism.
49. Perhaps the exaltation of sectarianism as a substitute for citizenship, the non-restriction of weapons in the hands of the state, the soft borders between some countries, the exacerbation of hate speech in times of crises and turmoil, and the weak political consensus in a group of Arab countries that are going through stumbling transitional periods are all factors that have enabled terrorist groups to The Arab region, especially ISIS, is able to invest these factors in order to adapt to its previous losses and the ability to stand firm, to pose a real threat to national security in the Arab countries. On this basis, Maat association for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents these recommendations:

- 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 countries that have not yet ratified the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism to complete its ratification procedures, and to deposit ratification documents with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.
- Urging Arab countries that are not members of the Global Coalition against Daesh to join the Coalition to exchange good practices and lessons learned and benefit from advice.
- Adopting unified Arab positions to remove all mercenaries and foreign forces from Arab countries, especially countries in conflict situations.
- 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 categories, 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.
- 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.
- Request support from United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 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.
- Funding research, studies and investigative journalism that analyze the phenomenon of terrorism in the Arab region and examining the visions and recommendations put forward by these researches.