



SINGAPORE TERRORISM THREAT ASSESSMENT REPORT 2021

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The terrorism threat to Singapore remains high. There is currently no specific nor credible intelligence of an imminent terrorist attack against Singapore.

Threats to Singapore

1 Self-radicalisation

Stems primarily from self-radicalised individuals influenced by extremist materials online.

Since 2015, 54 individuals were dealt with under the Internal Security Act for terrorism-related conduct. 44 of them were self-radicalised, of which 14 were dealt with since 2019.

Two attack plots against specific communities at their places of worship in Singapore were foiled in late 2020 and early 2021.

2 Islamist terrorism remains the primary concern.

3 Emerging threats such as far-right extremism.

- In December 2020, the first far-right self-radicalisation case was detected in Singapore.

4 External events and developments have spill-over effects, such as import of foreign grievances, hate speech and divisive rhetoric.

We need to maintain vigilance and strengthen the community's preparedness and resilience

SGSecure - Our community response to the terror threat



Remain vigilant



Report signs of radicalisation or suspicious activities to the Internal Security Department (ISD) at 1800-2626-473 or call the Police at 999.



Be prepared in the event of a terror attack



Stay united and cohesive against terrorism and radicalisation



OVERVIEW

The terrorism threat to Singapore remains high. Global terrorist groups like the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Al-Qaeda (AQ) have proven resilient and adaptable, despite their leadership losses and setbacks in recent years. Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, they have stepped up their recruitment and propaganda efforts on social media, encouraging their supporters worldwide to conduct attacks.

2. The enduring appeal of ISIS violent ideology is seen among the self-radicalised cases dealt with in Singapore in the past two years, the majority of whom were ISIS supporters. While Islamist terrorism remains the key concern, other emergent threats such as far-right extremism can also potentially propel at-risk individuals towards violent radicalism. In December 2020, Singapore detected its first self-radicalised individual who was inspired by far-right extremist ideologies.

3. There is currently no specific and credible intelligence of an imminent terrorist attack against Singapore. However, since the last Report issued on 22 January 2019, the Internal Security Department (ISD) has averted terrorist attacks by two Singaporean youths targeting places of worship in Singapore. These cases underscore the very real threat of lone-actor attacks by self-radicalised individuals.

EXTERNAL TERRORISM THREAT

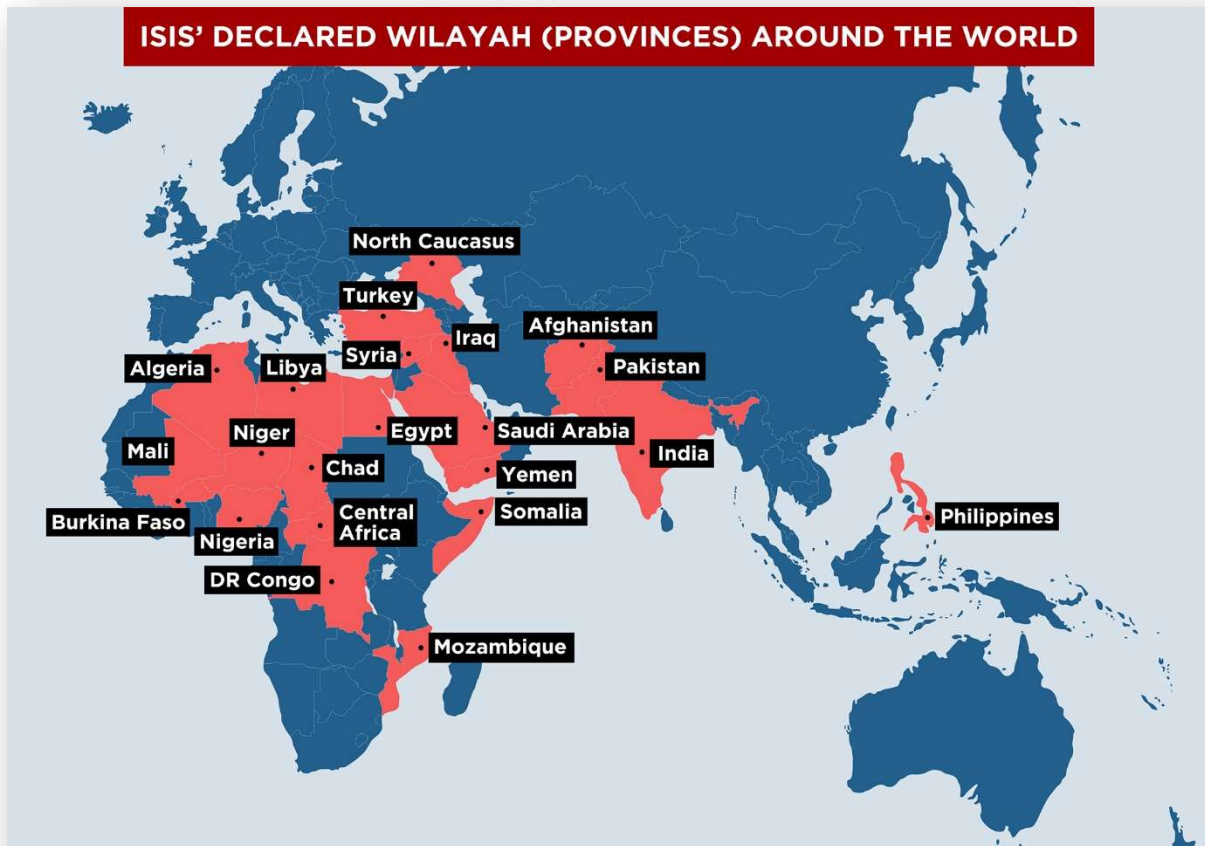
ISIS Continues to be Primary Threat

4. Despite losing its last territorial stronghold in March 2019, ISIS remains an active insurgent force in Syria and Iraq. It reportedly still has some 10,000 fighters in the conflict zone and tens of millions of dollars in cash reserves. Over the past year, ISIS has escalated its insurgent activities in the conflict zone, taking advantage of the security vacuum left by reduced military operations due to COVID-19 and the reduction in US troops in Iraq. It has also persisted with its recruitment efforts at internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Syria, especially among youths, raising concerns over the indoctrination of the next generation of ISIS fighters. With ISIS gradually regaining its strength, there are concerns that it may be able to reconstitute its capability to orchestrate international attacks.

5. Since the demise of its so-called caliphate, ISIS has repositioned its propaganda narrative to one of a “battle of attrition”, stressing that it will outlive its enemies in a protracted fight. In line with this narrative, it has stepped up calls for its affiliates and supporters worldwide to conduct attacks wherever they are. While the volume of ISIS propaganda from its official media arms has decreased, autonomous self-styled pro-ISIS media entities and sympathisers have filled the void.

6. Following ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s death in October 2019, multiple ISIS affiliates have signalled their continued support for ISIS through their *bai’ah* (pledge of allegiance) to ISIS new leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi. ISIS’s global provinces and affiliates have become increasingly deadly

in regions such as South Asia¹ and Sub-Saharan Africa, testimony to the resilience of ISIS global brand of terrorism beyond Iraq and Syria.



7. Within Southeast Asia, ISIS remains the primary terrorism threat actor. The number and scale of terror attacks and plots by regional pro-ISIS terror groups fell in 2019 and 2020 due to strong counter-terrorism measures. COVID-19 travel restrictions also appear to have hampered the movement of terrorists in this region, especially those seeking to travel to the Syria/Iraq conflict zone. Nevertheless, Southeast Asia remains part of ISIS decentralised “global caliphate”, with southern Philippines and Myanmar’s Rakhine state as potential theatres of jihad for ISIS supporters and other radicalised individuals from the region.²

¹ In April 2019, the National Thowheed Jamaath – a previously unknown group whose leader and members had pledged allegiance to ISIS – conducted a series of coordinated bombings across Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, leaving more than 250 people dead and over 500 others injured.

² Southern Philippines has long been the operating grounds of assorted terrorist groups, including ISIS-affiliated factions of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters. Despite the deaths of key leaders in 2020, these militants retain their capability to perpetrate mass casualty attacks (such as the ASG-linked 24 Aug 2020 twin bombings in Jolo, southern Philippines, which killed 15 and wounded at least 75 others). Separately, in November 2020, a purported ISIS-aligned Rohingya militant group, Katiba al-Mahdi fi Bilad al-Arakan (KMBA), rallied supporters to travel to Rakhine state to engage in armed jihad.

8. In Indonesia, there have been at least 29 terrorist attacks and 25 foiled plots from 2019 to date, most of them involving small ISIS-inspired cells and lone militants. On 28 Mar 2021, a young married couple associated with the pro-ISIS Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) detonated a bomb outside a cathedral in Makassar, South Sulawesi, killing themselves and wounding at least 20 bystanders.

9. In Malaysia, authorities foiled three attack plots by pro-ISIS transnational “wolf packs” in 2019 and 2020, with one involving Malaysians, Indonesians and Rohingyas. The cells had targeted government officials, non-Muslims and places of worship, amongst others.



10. Southeast Asian ISIS supporters have also sustained ISIS’s violent extremist ideology in the cyberspace by actively disseminating ISIS propaganda in Bahasa Indonesia and Tagalog. In April 2021, it was reported that a female Malaysian ISIS supporter was a key administrator of regional pro-ISIS WhatsApp chat groups. With individuals spending more time online during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the proliferation of radical propaganda could lead to more self-radicalisation cases in future.

11. Thus far, there has not been a significant exodus of Southeast Asian foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) from the conflict zones. Their return to their home countries is partly hampered by repatriation challenges and COVID-19 travel restrictions. Nonetheless, should they eventually make their way home, these FTFs – who are

likely to be more ideologically hardened, skilled in attack tactics and connected to terror networks – would pose a serious threat. Those who remain in overseas conflict zones also pose a security concern through their ability to direct terror activities in our region.³

AQ is Steadily Rebuilding Itself

12. AQ suffered a series of senior leadership losses in 2020 but remains resilient because of its “long game strategy” of building support among local communities through its regional affiliates. It continues to exploit ungoverned spaces, conflict zones and security vacuums to recruit and conduct its activities.

13. In recent years, AQ affiliates in Sahel and East Africa have made gains. Prior to 2015, AQ Central had reportedly directed some affiliates not to launch attacks against the West for the time being; however, there may be signs that they have since reverted to plotting attacks against Western targets. In December 2020, a Kenyan member of AQ’s East African affiliate Al-Shabaab, was charged in the US for plotting to conduct a 9/11 style attack in an unnamed US city.⁴

14. The resultant security vacuum arising from the impending withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan by July 2021 could also facilitate the resurgence of AQ and ISIS-Khorasan in Afghanistan.

Jemaah Islamiyah Remains a Latent Threat

15. Southeast Asia faces a latent terror threat from the AQ-aligned terrorist group, Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), which remains committed to establishing an Islamic caliphate within Indonesia, and possibly the region. Despite the arrest of around 160 JI members including several senior JI leaders since 2019, JI continues to recruit and operate in Indonesia through its network of schools and charitable foundations. JI also continues to grow its revenue streams through its legitimate businesses and by undertaking fund-raising appeals under the guise of humanitarian efforts directed towards the COVID-19 pandemic and overseas conflicts.

16. Significantly, JI is reported to have sent recruits to receive combat training from AQ-affiliated militant groups in Syria. Some of them have since returned to Indonesia to impart their paramilitary skills to fellow JI members. Notably, Indonesian authorities reportedly disrupted two separate attack plots by JI-linked militant cells in 2020 and 2021, which included Indonesian Chinese workers and

³ For instance, Afghanistan-based Indonesian ISIS-linked militant, Saefullah, reportedly facilitated the travel of an Indonesian Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD)-linked couple from Indonesia to southern Philippines, where they conducted a suicide bombing attack at a church in Jolo in January 2019 which killed at least 23 people.

⁴ The Kenyan national was arrested in the Philippines in July 2019, prior to his deportation to the US. He had reportedly made preparations for an attack, which included undergoing flight training in the Philippines.

businesses among their targets. These developments portend the possibility that JI is rebuilding its military capabilities and may re-engage in terrorist violence in Indonesia. The release of two high-profile JI-linked terrorists from prison over the past two years – Malaysian key operative Yazid Sufaat and Indonesian ideologue Abu Bakar Bashir – is also of concern, as their release could rally JI supporters in the region.

Far-Right Extremism

17. In recent years, far-right extremism has emerged as a major terrorism concern overseas, and the fastest growing threat in some Western countries. Far-right extremism is characterised by rhetoric espousing racial supremacy and more recently, anti-Islam and anti-immigration ideas. The far-right extremist movement is diverse. Its groups and adherents can range from neo-Nazis, anti-immigrant or Islamophobic groups and ultra-nationalists, to conspiracy theorists and the so-called “involuntarily celibate” or incel movement.

18. Far-right extremist groups have reportedly become more organised and capable of mounting attacks. At the same time, the threat of far-right extremist violence also emanates from lone actors such as Brenton Tarrant (Tarrant), the perpetrator of the March 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings. A growing number of far-right radicalisation cases overseas have involved youths and teenagers, who were recruited through social media and video gaming platforms.

19. While far-right extremism does not currently have significant traction in Southeast Asia, its broader messages of ethno-religious chauvinism and anti-immigration nativism have found resonance with some hardline groups in this region. Such narratives could deepen societal fault-lines and even inspire individuals to mount acts of violence against members of other communities.

20. There is an added concern that violence conducted by far-right extremists could provoke retaliatory attacks from Islamist terrorist groups. This was seen in the aftermath of the March 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings, with Islamist terrorist groups threatening to conduct revenge attacks against Christians and Western targets.

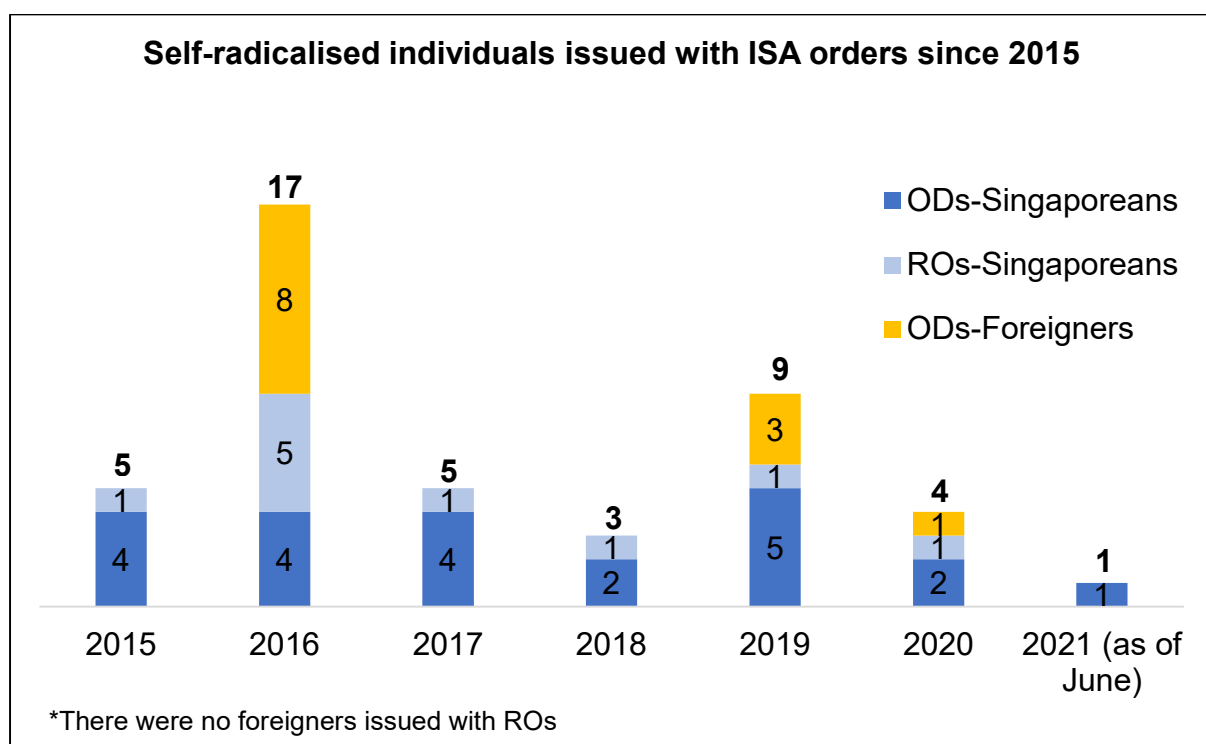
DOMESTIC THREAT SITUATION

21. In Singapore, the terrorism threat stems primarily from self-radicalised individuals who are influenced by violent extremist materials online. Since 2015, 54 individuals have been dealt with under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for terrorism-related conduct. A significant majority (44) are self-radicalised individuals, comprising 32 Singaporeans and 12 foreigners (three Indonesians and nine Bangladeshis).

22. The trend of self-radicalisation has persisted over the past two years. Of the 16 individuals issued with terrorism-related ISA orders from January 2019 to date, 14 were self-radicalised, comprising:

- a. 10 Singaporeans – eight were issued Orders of Detention (ODs) and two were placed on Restriction Orders (ROs)⁵; and
- b. Four foreigners (all were issued ODs) – comprising three Indonesians and one Bangladeshi who were working in Singapore at the time of their arrests under the ISA.

23. The remaining two (out of the 16) are Singaporean Sheik Heikel bin Khalid Bafana (issued with an OD in March 2019) who was actively involved in the civil war in Yemen and had also worked for a foreign power as a paid agent while in Yemen, and Singaporean Rasidah binte Mazlan (issued with a RO in March 2019) who was found to be in contact with multiple foreign entities suspected of involvement in terrorism-related activities.⁶



Self-Radicalisation Cases Mostly ISIS or Syrian Conflict-Related

24. Of the 14 self-radicalised individuals dealt with since 2019, 12 were ISIS supporters and/or primarily inspired by the Syrian conflict. Most of them remained staunchly supportive of ISIS even with the group's territorial losses and eventual military defeat. It is evident that the group's territorial and leadership losses have not diminished its appeal to those radicalised by its violent, apocalyptic narratives.

⁵ One of the two individuals issued with RO, Singaporean Ruqayyah binti Ramli, was subsequently detained under the ISA in April 2021 because there was an escalation in her radical behaviour and involvement in activities prejudicial to Singapore's security after being placed on RO in August 2020.

⁶ Sheik Heikel bin Khalid Bafana was released on an RO in March 2021, while the RO issued against Rasidah binte Mazlan was allowed to lapse upon its expiry in March 2021.

25. In the case of a 17-year-old Singaporean ISIS supporter detained in January 2020, he said that he still believed in ISIS despite the fall of its erstwhile caliphate, and he did not want to betray the group. Another ISIS supporter, Kuthubdeen Haja Najumudeen (Haja; detained in May 2019), was a follower of the pro-ISIS Sri Lankan preacher and mastermind of the Easter Day bombings, Zahran Hashim (Zahran; deceased). Haja was impressed with Zahran's fiery religious sermons and regularly contacted Zahran for religious guidance. He conducted extensive research online in order to migrate to Syria to join ISIS, but eventually decided against travelling to Syria as he feared he would be killed or injured there. His support for ISIS, however, continued until his arrest under the ISA in May 2019.

26. For the few individuals whose support for ISIS waned over time, the Syrian conflict continued to hold strong appeal for them and they were prepared to join other terrorist groups in the conflict zone. For example, Singaporean Imran bin Mahmood (detained in January 2019) had questioned ISIS's legitimacy when it started to suffer territorial losses. However, he still believed that it was his religious duty to fight alongside any group trying to establish a rightful caliphate in Syria. In the case of Bangladeshi national Ahmed Faysal (detained in November 2020), he initially supported ISIS, but shifted his support to another terrorist group, Hayat Tahrir Al Sham, which operates in the Syria/Iraq conflict zone.

Not Immune to Other Extremist Influences

27. Notwithstanding the draw of the Syrian conflict and ISIS violent ideology, Singapore is not immune to other forms of extremist ideologies and influences.

28. In December 2020, we detected our first self-radicalisation case who was inspired by far-right extremist ideology. The 16-year-old Singaporean youth was inspired by the March 2019 Christchurch mosque shooter Tarrant and wanted to emulate Tarrant's attack.



Vest purchased by 16-year-old youth to be worn during his intended attacks



Assyafaah Mosque and Yusof Ishak Mosque identified by 16-year-old youth for his intended attacks

29. In March 2021, 20-year-old Singaporean Amirull bin Ali (Amirull) became the first self-radicalised individual detained under the ISA who was primarily driven by the Israel-Palestine conflict. He wanted to travel to Gaza in the Palestinian territories to join HAMAS' military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigade in its fight against Israel. He had also made plans and preparations to attack Jews at the Maghain Aboth Synagogue.



Image of Maghain Aboth Synagogue which Amirull downloaded online

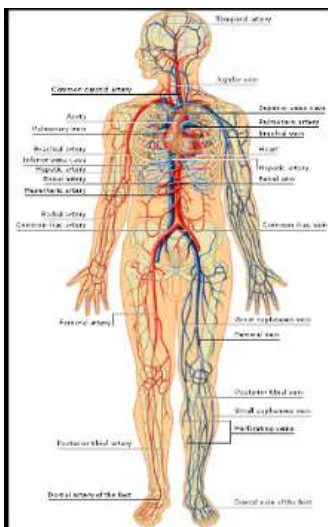
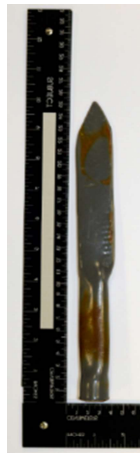


Image of human vascular system downloaded by Amirull for attack preparation



Replica weapons made by Amirull to practise rifle handling and stabbing techniques

30. Apart from the case of the 16-year-old youth, there is currently no indication that far-right extremism has gained significant traction in Singapore. We have also not seen widespread expressions of Islamophobia in Singapore. Islamophobic incidents here are generally sporadic and contained. However, this does not mean that we are immune to far-right/anti-Islam ideologies, which are prevalent on social media. We have to stay vigilant and take a firm stand against any rhetoric that promotes hatred or animosity towards other communities, and draw the line at the pursuit of any violent action, regardless of how it is justified.

Threat of Lone Actor Attacks by Self-Radicalised Individuals

31. The fairly advanced attack plans by the 16-year-old youth and Amirull underscore the continued threat posed by self-radicalised lone actors conducting attacks using easily available weapons on soft targets such as places of worship.

32. In both of the recent cases, as well as Bangladeshi Ahmed Faysal who intended to conduct attacks in Bangladesh, the weapon of choice was bladed weapons. This is illustrative of the wider trend in recent years where easily available means, such as knives and vehicles, have been used for terrorist attacks. Notably, both youths had considered and abandoned the idea of using firearms for their attacks because of strict local regulations on firearms. The Guns, Explosives and Weapons Control Bill, which was passed in Parliament in January 2021, further strengthens Singapore's regulatory framework on the handling of guns, explosives and other weapons (including the types of bladed weapons that the youths had intended to use).



Machete which 16-year-old youth intended to purchase for his attack against Muslims at two mosques



Knife which Amirull intended to use to attack Jews at Maghain Aboth Synagogue



Selected knives and blades recovered from Ahmed Faysal which he intended to use for attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh

33. Notwithstanding regulatory measures and other barriers put in place to secure Singapore from terrorist attacks, the reality is that attackers can resort to weaponising readily accessible items. Furthermore, self-radicalised individuals leave little operational footprint and can mobilise to violence very quickly. The two Singaporean youths had conceptualised their attack plans within a few months, and their family members and friends were unaware of their attack plans. It is thus crucial for the community to stay vigilant against any suspicious activities.

Singaporeans Engaged in Conflict in Syria and Iraq

34. Since late 2013, at least four radicalised Singaporeans have travelled to Syria/Iraq and are believed to have participated in the armed conflict there. Two Singaporeans – Haja Fakkurudeen Usman Ali and Maimunah binti Abdul Kadir – had travelled there with their families. There are no indications that they intend to return to Singapore. As previously reported, the third, Megat Shahdan bin Abdul Samad, is believed to have been killed.⁷ The fourth Singaporean, Fauziah Begum binte Khamal Bacha, who was living in Melbourne, Australia, had travelled to Syria with her Bosnia-born husband Yasin Rizvic and their four children in 2014. Fauziah, her husband and their eldest child were believed to have died in ISIS-controlled territory in Syria in early 2019.

Radicalised Foreigners Residing in Singapore

35. Cases of radicalisation continue to surface amongst foreigners working and living in Singapore. None of the foreigners investigated had any plans to conduct attacks in Singapore. Nonetheless, their radicalisation and association with terrorists overseas render them a security threat to Singapore.

36. Since 2015, over 40 Bangladeshi workers in Singapore were found to have been radicalised. Except for Ahmed Faysal (who is currently detained under the ISA and is also undergoing investigation by the Commercial Affairs Department for possible terrorism financing offences), the other Bangladeshis have all been repatriated.

37. Since 2015, 21 foreign domestic workers in Singapore were also found to have been radicalised. Three of them, all ISIS supporters, were detained under the ISA in September 2019 and convicted of terrorism financing offences in 2020; two have since been repatriated following the completion of their prison term, while the remaining is still serving her imprisonment term. The other 18 domestic workers were repatriated after their investigations were completed.

38. In 2020, three Malaysian workers were found to be radicalised, bringing the total number of radicalised Malaysians repatriated since 2018 to six. All three had harboured the intention of travelling to Syria to undertake armed violence. One of

⁷ Megat Shahdan bin Abdul Samad fought for ISIS in Syria/Iraq and was featured in two ISIS propaganda videos released in September and December 2017. In one of the videos, he was featured alongside two other Southeast Asian militants executing three so-called “agents of the crusader coalition”.

them had radicalised his wife, Singaporean Ruqayyah binti Ramli (Ruqayyah), a housewife and former part-time freelance religious teacher, with his pro-ISIS views. Ruqayyah was issued with a RO in August 2020, and subsequently detained under the ISA in April 2021 after an escalation in her radical behaviour and involvement in activities prejudicial to Singapore's security.

Prosecutions under the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act (TSOFA)

39. Since 2016, two Singaporeans and nine foreigners have been prosecuted for terrorism financing offences under the TSOFA. In 2016, six Bangladeshis were the first to be convicted under the TSOFA. This was followed by Singaporeans Ahmed Hussein Abdul Kadir s/o Sheik Uduman and Imran Kassim, who were convicted in October 2019 and January 2020 respectively, and the three aforementioned Indonesian domestic workers who were convicted between February and March 2020. All of them had collected and/or provided funds to overseas entities in support of terrorism-related purposes.

40. TSOFA criminalises the act of providing money in support of terrorist purposes, regardless of the amount involved. Singapore takes a firm stance against terrorism financing-related activities, including those related to the generation of funds, movement of funds, and the use of such funds, whether locally or overseas. As an active member of the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF), which has been at the forefront of driving the development and implementation of measures to counter the financing of terrorism, Singapore fully subscribes to the FATF standards, and the regime we have put in place to combat terrorist financing is in line with the standards.

THREAT OUTLOOK

41. There is currently no specific nor credible intelligence of an imminent terrorist attack against Singapore. Nonetheless, ISD remains on high alert. The recent cases involving the two Singaporean youths who had made detailed plans and preparations to kill Muslims and Jews in Singapore, are a sobering reminder that the threat of lone actor attacks remains very real.

42. Singapore is an open society, and Singaporeans are susceptible to being influenced by external developments, including foreign grievances and extremist ideologies that can motivate at-risk individuals in our society to violence. While ISIS's enduring ideology is of primary concern, emergent threats such as far-right extremism have broadened the scope of the terrorism threat.

43. Events abroad can also have an impact on our domestic security landscape. In late 2020, in the aftermath of terror attacks in France and other parts of the world arising from the re-publication of caricatures depicting Prophet Muhammad by French magazine Charlie Hebdo, 37 individuals in Singapore were investigated for making inflammatory social media postings, among other things. More recently, the escalation in violence in Gaza since May 2021 evoked strong reactions in Singapore and other parts of the world. Fortunately, domestic reactions to this long-standing and complex conflict have largely steered clear of extremist and

violent rhetoric. To-date, Amirull remains the only domestic terrorism case we have detected who was aggrieved by this conflict to the extent that he wanted to engage in armed violence.

44. Public vigilance remains key to the detection of self-radicalised individuals. As seen from overseas terrorist incidents and the recent foiled attack plots involving the two self-radicalised Singaporean youths, such attacks are hard to prevent, and can happen quickly without much warning.

SGSECURE - A CALL TO ACTION

45. The Government continues to enhance our counter-terrorism capabilities (see **Annex A** for details). Apart from the operational response from the authorities, our community response is also critical in our fight against terrorism.

46. The SGSecure movement was launched in 2016 to sensitise, train and mobilise the community in the fight against terror. To this end, the Home Team works closely with partner agencies to reach out to different segments of the community, such as in neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and religious organisations. SGSecure programmes have helped to raise awareness of the terrorism threat and increase community vigilance. More than half of Singaporeans recognise that Singapore is a target for terrorist attacks, while the majority of Singaporeans believe that they have a responsibility to safeguard Singapore's safety and security in the fight against terrorism.⁸ See **Annex B** for details on the progress of SGSecure.

ROLE OF COMMUNITY IN REPORTING SUSPECTED CASES OF RADICALISATION

47. Despite our best efforts, the authorities may not be able to uncover every radicalised individual. As such, it is important that the community remains vigilant to signs that someone around us may have become radicalised.

Possible signs of radicalisation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) frequently surfing radical websites;
- b) posting/sharing extremist views on social media platforms, such as expressing support/admiration for terrorists/terrorist groups as well as the use of violence;
- c) sharing their extremist views with friends and relatives;

⁸ Based on MCI's National Security Awareness Survey (NSAS) 2019, 58% of respondents believe that Singapore is a target for terrorist attacks. 83% agree that in the fight against terrorism, safeguarding Singapore's safety and security is the responsibility of every individual.

- d) making remarks that promote ill-will or hatred towards people of other races or religions;
- e) expressing intent to participate in acts of violence overseas or in Singapore; and/or
- f) inciting others to participate in acts of violence.

48. Besides being aware of the signs of radicalisation, the willingness to report is also important. Based on MCI's 2019 National Security Awareness Survey (NSAS), only about half of respondents would contact the authorities if they believed that their relative/friend has been displaying signs of radicalisation.⁹

49. Family, friends and colleagues are best placed to notice changes in an individual. Early reporting is critical to allow authorities to intervene in a timely manner and prevent such persons from harming themselves and others. Once they commit an act of violence, they will face much more severe penalties, and may even be liable for capital punishment.

50. Anyone who knows or suspects that a person is radicalised should promptly contact the ISD Counter-Terrorism hotline 1800-2626-473 (1800-2626-ISD). The identity of the informer will be protected. When a report is made, authorities will carry out checks to ascertain the veracity of the report. In situations where there are no indications of radicalisation, no further action will be taken against the individual(s). Where there is basis to suspect that the person may be radicalised, he/she may be referred for counselling and other mitigating measures. The authorities will, however, not hesitate to use the ISA to deal with individuals who are deeply radicalised or have engaged in terrorist activities.

OUR RESPONSE MATTERS

51. It is also important to be prepared to deal with a terror attack when it occurs. The first response of those caught in an attack is crucial. People who are trained and prepared for an attack will also be able to help others around them.

52. Under SGSecure, the Home Team and our partner agencies have steadily increased efforts to raise the preparedness of the community by making emergency preparedness (EP) skills training more accessible. The proportion of residents who are familiar with or trained in EP skills has increased since we started SGSecure, from 40% in 2017 to 62% in 2019.¹⁰ We are also working with institutions such as workplaces, schools, and places of worship to put in place

⁹ Based on NSAS 2019 findings, 54% of respondents would contact the authorities (i.e. contact the SPF, call the ISD Counter-Terrorism hotline, or report via the SGSecure app) if they believed that their relative/friend has been displaying signs of radicalisation.

¹⁰ 40% of respondents for NSAS 2017 and 62% of respondents for NSAS 2019 said that they are trained in or familiar with at least one of the following EP skills stated in the survey. The EP skills covered in NSAS 2017 were performing CPR, using an AED, and providing first aid. This was expanded for the NSAS 2019, to also include psychological first aid or counselling, performing improvised first aid, and operating a fire extinguisher.

contingency plans for terror attack scenarios, as well as validate them through security drills and exercises.

53. The SGSecure Responders' Network was launched in November 2019 to encourage members of the public to commit themselves to be active responders. Anyone can be an SGSecure Responder and members of public can join easily through the SGSecure app. The "Respond" feature in the SGSecure app allows Responders to be mobilised to help people in distress, such as by responding to cardiac arrest or minor fire cases around them. As of March 2021, there are close to 92,000 Responders. We will continue to expand the pool of Responders in the community so that more people will step forward to help others during emergencies, whether in peacetime or in crises such as a terrorist attack.

54. More important than our response *during* a terror incident is our collective response as a nation *after* an attack, or even a foiled attack. We need to keep calm and stay informed via official sources of information, we should not speculate or spread rumours, and at the same time, we should show care for others and help them bounce back.

CONCLUSION

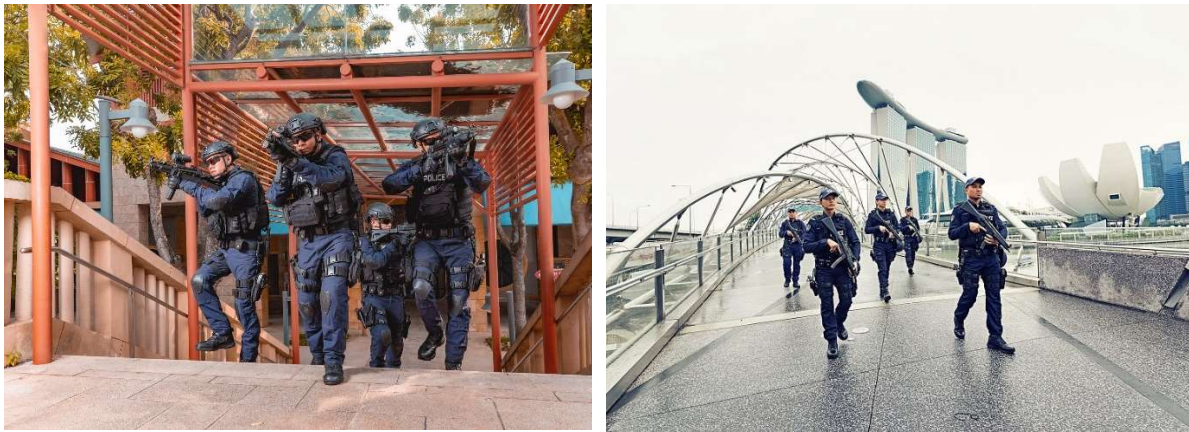
55. The terrorism threat to Singapore persists. We need to maintain vigilance and strengthen the community's preparedness and resilience. Above all, we need to safeguard our social cohesion. A cohesive and united society is our best defence against terrorism and radicalisation.

INTERNAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT
23 JUNE 2021

GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENHANCE COUNTER-TERRORISM CAPABILITIES

The Government has taken significant steps to enhance our counter-terrorism capabilities.

2. Part of the Police's enhanced response capabilities include the Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) and Rapid Deployment Troops (RDTs). The ERTs patrol various locations, including iconic locations, locations with high footfall, and transport nodes. They are also trained to respond swiftly to neutralise threats. RDTs are equipped with tactical response motorcycles to navigate through traffic gridlock.



ERTs

(Photographs were taken before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Singapore. Source: Singapore Police Force)

3. In-Situ Reaction Teams (IRTs) complement ERTs and RDTs in the counter-terrorism mission. They are deployed at iconic areas with high footfall, such as Orchard Road and Marina Bay, to project deterrence and provide quick response.



IRTs

(Photographs were taken before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Singapore. Source: Singapore Police Force)



RDTs

(Photographs were taken before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Singapore. Source: Singapore Police Force)

4. Frontline Police officers are being progressively trained and equipped with pistols, which will replace the revolver as our service firearm, thereby providing officers with higher firepower.

5. Beyond enhancing capabilities to respond to terrorist attacks, the Police have also strengthened their investigative capabilities over the years. For instance, the Police have installed more than 90,000 police cameras in public residential estates, towns and neighbourhood centres, hotspots, and areas of high footfall island-wide. This has not only boosted the Police's ability to solve crimes, but deal with terrorist incidents should they occur.

6. The Police are continually enhancing their operational preparedness through regular counter-terrorism exercises, some of which are conducted with community stakeholders such as shopping malls, educational institutions, places of worship, and public transportation facilities. Some of these exercises also involve agencies like the Singapore Armed Forces and Singapore Civil Defence Force, to ensure a well-coordinated response to terrorist incidents.

7. The security agencies have stepped up vigilance at key locations across the island, and in our waters. Increased patrols and other visible deterrence measures have been introduced at the checkpoints and along the coastline. The security agencies will monitor global developments closely and adjust our security measures accordingly to prevent and deter terrorist attacks in Singapore.



*Police Coast Guard
(Photographs were taken before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Singapore. Source: Singapore Police Force)*

8. The Public Order and Safety (Special Powers) Act grants the Police powers to respond effectively to serious public safety and public order incidents, including terrorist attacks.

9. The Infrastructure Protection Act (IPA) protects Singapore's critical infrastructure, and buildings that are iconic and/or have high public footfall. Such infrastructures are required to incorporate security measures at the design stage. Directives and Orders may be issued to protect crowded places against terrorist threats.

10. The IPA also provides enhanced powers to safeguard Protected Areas (PA) and Protected Places (PP) in Singapore. This includes powers to enforce against unauthorised photography of the whole or any part of a PA/PP to prevent pre-attack surveillance, and powers to secure the surrounding area of the PA/PP against security threats.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

SGSECURE: OUR RESPONSE MATTERS; WE MAKE SGSECURE

The SGSecure movement is Singapore's community response to the threat of terror. The movement was launched in 2016 to sensitise, train and mobilise the community to prevent and deal with a terror attack.

2. Together with our partner agencies, we focus on sensitising the public to the terror threat and imparting basic information and skills to help them prevent and cope with an attack. We have also steadily increased our efforts to raise preparedness at both the individual and institutional levels.

Sustaining and Growing Awareness

3. Since the launch of the movement, we have made progress in raising awareness of the terror threat and the role that the community can play in the fight against terrorism. Based on a survey conducted in 2019, 58% of respondents recognised Singapore as a target for terror attacks, while 83% agreed that every individual has a responsibility to safeguard Singapore's safety and security in the fight against terrorism.

4. The Home Team and our partners have continued working with workplaces, schools, neighbourhoods and places of worship to spread SGSecure messages:

- a. Between 2019 and 2020, the Home Team conducted five **SGSecure Roadshows** at major population centres to reach out to a diverse profile of participants, from families, to young students and working adults. Through the Roadshows, we were able to reach out to more than 30,000 participants. Participants could learn about the terrorism threat and pick up emergency preparedness skills at the Roadshows. They were also able to participate in a simulated terror attack to put their knowledge and skills into action.



*SGSecure Roadshow in Punggol Waterway Point
(Photos taken between 1 to 3 November 2019)*

- b. Home Team officers have been conducting SGSecure **house visits** in HDB estates. More than 480,000 households have been engaged so

far. We have also expanded outreach efforts to private estates through the “**Safety and Security Day**” in condominiums.

- c. In schools, we have engaged students on the terror threat and SGSecure through **assembly talks and mobile exhibitions**. **SGSecure themed storybooks** developed by Temasek Foundation Cares were distributed to all Primary Three and Four students from 2018 to 2020. Customised books are also produced for students with special needs.
- d. Under the SGSecure@Workplaces programme, **seminars, webinars and outreach programmes** were conducted to engage companies and employees on SGSecure. More than 4,000 companies from priority sectors were engaged.
- e. **Counter-terrorism briefings** were conducted for more than 500 Religious Organisations and Community Organisations. 18 **interfaith activities** involving more than 8,000 participants were conducted to foster better appreciation of diverse religions and cultures, as well as to raise awareness and increase understanding of radicalism, extremism and terrorism. A **Youth Hackathon** which was held between November and December 2020, saw close to 300 participants pitch innovative ideas on strengthening social cohesion and implement projects to promote racial and religious harmony.



Interfaith discussions such as the “Ask Me Anything” series (Photos taken on 7 December 2019)

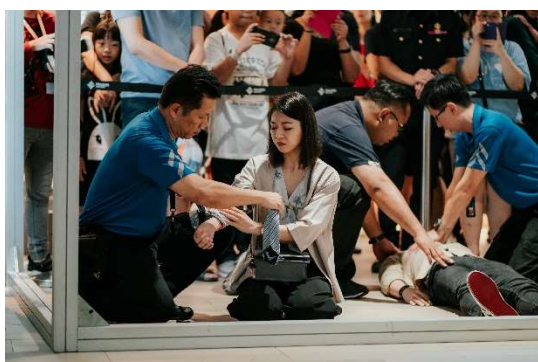


Mission: Unite Hackathon (Photo taken on 5 December 2020)

Raising Preparedness

5. We have also been working with partner agencies to raise preparedness in their respective domains through training in emergency preparedness skills. The proportion of residents who are familiar with or trained in emergency preparedness skills has increased since we started SGSecure, from 40% in 2017 to 62% in 2019. We are also working with institutions to put in place contingency plans and conduct exercises to prepare for terror attack scenarios.

- a. More than 33% of **Grassroots Leaders** are trained in and familiar with at least one emergency preparedness skill. All constituencies have completed a **Crisis Response Exercise** which simulates the operations of the Community Centre / Club Operations Centre in response to a terror attack scenario.
- b. 95% of schools have completed **annual lockdown drills** (the remaining were unable to conduct drills due to COVID-19 situation). As part of their physical education curriculum, **Secondary One students are taught CPR/AED**. Student leaders in **Uniformed Groups** are trained in CPR/AED and first aid. The introduction of these skills at a young age will enable students to apply them in times of need, and spark their interest to further develop their skills.
- c. **SGSecure Guide for Workplaces** was launched in 2017 to help businesses prepare for the terror threat, and has been distributed to over 150,000 companies. More than 63,000 businesses have appointed **SGSecure representatives**, who help to drive SGSecure programmes in their workplace during peacetime, and also serve as points of contact that authorities can reach out to during a terror attack. More than 26,000 companies are certified under the **enhanced bizSAFE framework**, requiring them to incorporate terrorist attacks in their risk management plans. Under the SGSecure@Workplaces programme, competencies to deal with a terror attack in the retail and hotel sectors were raised, through **exercises** conducted with various retail malls, and the development of **sector specific SGSecure guides**.



*Exercise with Punggol Waterway Point
(Photos taken on 2 November 2019)*



Guides available on the SGSecure@Workplaces website

- d. All **Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles (IRCC)** leaders have been trained in skills such as mediation, counselling and facilitation, to support them in conducting interfaith activities and addressing communal harmony issues following a crisis. All IRCCs have conducted **TableTop Exercises (TTX)** to validate and strengthen their ability to respond quickly to racial and religious tensions in the aftermath of a terrorist attack.

- e. MCCY launched the **Crisis Preparedness for Religious Organisations (CPRO)** programme in 2020. Under the programme, Religious Organisations (ROs) can gauge their readiness and identify gaps in areas such as emergency response, contingency planning and relevant skills required in a crisis. They can then attend training and participate in scenario-based exercises.



Launch of Crisis Preparedness for Religious Organisations programme
(Photo taken on 14 January 2020)

A Stronger Community Response

6. In addition to raising awareness and preparedness, more will be done to strengthen networks and relationships that can coordinate crisis preparedness activities and be readily mobilised in times of crisis.

7. To this end, we piloted the **Community Response Roundtable (CRRT)** in 2019. Led by the constituency’s Grassroots Advisor, the CRRT brings representatives from schools, businesses, grassroots, religious and other community groups within a geographical area to the same table. The aim of the CRRT is to strengthen cooperation across stakeholder groups to enhance local community-level emergency preparedness. Seven constituencies have implemented the CRRT so far and we plan to roll out more across Singapore.



*Community Response Roundtable meetings
(Photos taken on 20 January 2021 and 15 March 2021)*

8. At the society level, the **SGSecure Responders’ Network** was launched in November 2019. Members of the public can join easily through the SGSecure app. The “Respond” feature in the SGSecure app mobilises SGSecure Responders to help people in distress, such as by responding to cardiac arrest or minor fire cases near them. As of March 2021, more than 92,000 have signed up as a Responder, forming a pool of people in the community who are willing to and can be mobilised to help others during emergencies, whether in peacetime or in a crisis such as a terrorist attack.

Way Forward for SGSecure Movement

9. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have sustained and grown the momentum of the SGSecure movement by introducing new programmes and training sessions online, as well as by continuing our existing programmes with safe management measures in place.

10. The Home Team will continue to work with our partner agencies to build on current programmes, and introducing new initiatives that can further strengthen our community response to the threat of terrorism.