

Terrorism Index **in the Arab Region** **2nd Quarter, 2022**

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Executive Summary - Terrorism Index in the Arab Region, 2nd Quarter, 2022

Terrorist operations in the Arab region declined in the second quarter of 2022 by 123 terrorist attacks, compared to 209 in the first quarter of the same year. These terrorist operations claimed the lives of 462 civilians and soldiers, and caused the injury of 326 others, the majority of whom were women and children.

The countries of armed conflicts and the Arab countries going through faltering transition periods, such as Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Libya and Sudan, recorded the majority of terrorist operations. Terrorist groups in the Arab region carried out 120 terrorist operations in the six mentioned countries alone, which is 97% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region in the second quarter of 2022.

With 42 terrorist attacks, Syria was at the top of the terrorism index in the Arab region in the second quarter of 2022, which is 34% of the total terrorist operations in the Arab region. It also topped the index of injuries resulting from terrorist operations, with 123 military and civilian casualties, and third in the death toll index, with about 61 deaths. Attacks in Syria have mainly focused on the Syrian Democratic Forces and the Syrian National Army. Maat noticed a new pattern of terrorism in the north and west of Syria, where workers in humanitarian organizations were targeted. Two heads of relief and humanitarian organizations were assassinated in northern and western Syria in the second quarter.

Iraq took an advanced position in the index of the terrorist operation in the second quarter of 2022. It came second in the terrorism index with 41 terrorist operations, which is 33% of the total terrorist operations, third in the number of casualties with about 72 injuries, and fourth in the death index with about 61 deaths from civilians and military. Despite the decrease in terrorist operations in Somalia during the reporting period, where only 20 terrorist attacks were recorded, it came second in the death index with 107 dead and second in the injuries index with about 78 wounded. Both Yemen and Libya suffer from political differences and the lack of unification of military and security institutions, which is a reason for the spread of terrorism in the two countries. Al-Qaeda in Yemen carried out new operations, and ISIS maintained its presence in large areas of southern Libya.

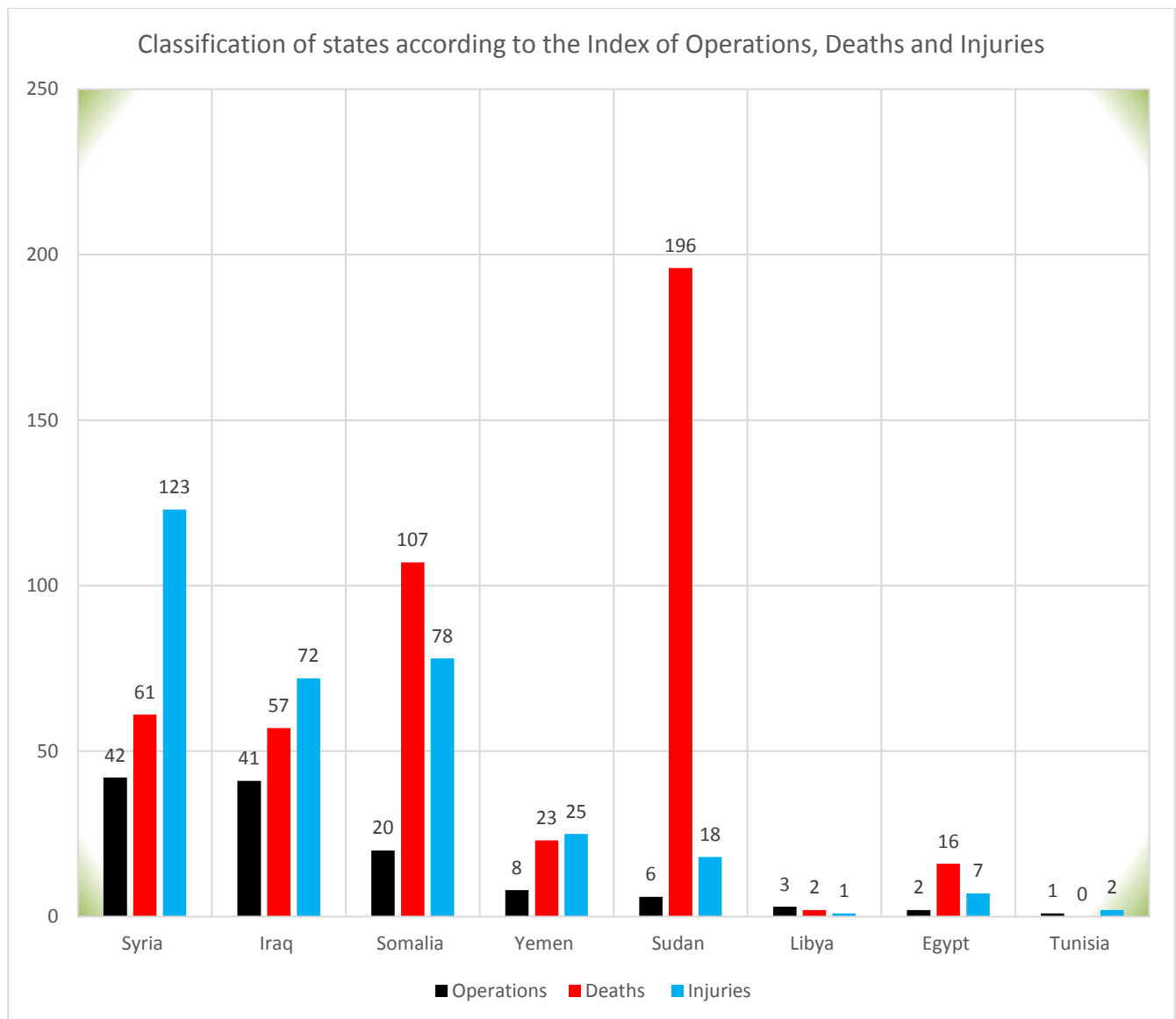


Figure 1

14 Arab countries managed to keep their record clean of terrorist operations in the second quarter of 2022, which is remarkable progress demonstrating the effectiveness of anti-terrorism measures and the efforts to dry up its funding sources. This improvement is also attributed to the effective truce between the Houthis and Yemen's Presidential Council, as the Houthis stopped firing ballistic missiles and drones at neighboring countries in the second quarter of 2022, in addition to the exchange of experiences and best practices among Arab countries.

ISIS and its affiliates were the most terrorist groups to carry out terrorist operations in the second quarter of 2022. The organization carried out 37 terrorist operations and was documented by Maat, with 27 operations in Iraq, 6 in Syria, and two

in Egypt and Libya. Despite the organization's financial capacity decrease, it can plan and implement some terrorist operations, taking advantage of the vast areas in the Syrian Badia and remote region in Iraq and southern Libya.

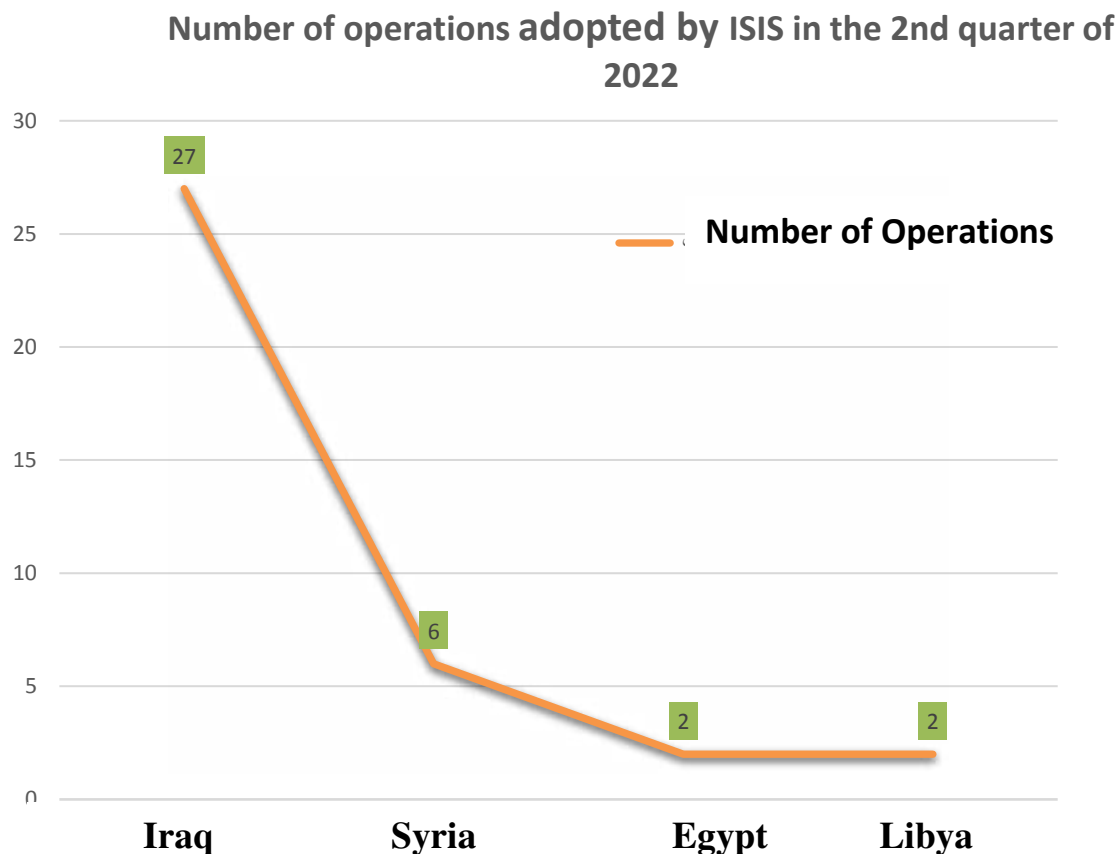


Figure 2

Al-Shabab in Somalia ranked second with 20 terrorist attacks in Somalia, where the group did not adopt any cross-border operations. The operations adopted by the movement declined due to security measures that coincided with the holding of the presidential elections and led to the election of a new Somali president, Sheikh Mahmoud. Al-Qaeda in Yemen was in third place and resumed its activity in Yemen, prompted by political parties which did not satisfy the new presidential council formation in Yemen. The pro-Iranian militias carried out three terrorist operations, two by the Houthis in Yemen and one by the Janjaweed militias in West Darfur. The Headquarters for the Liberation of Al-Sham was at the bottom of the terrorist groups' index, with one

operation attributed to it. Almost 52 terrorist attacks were attributed to unknown persons.

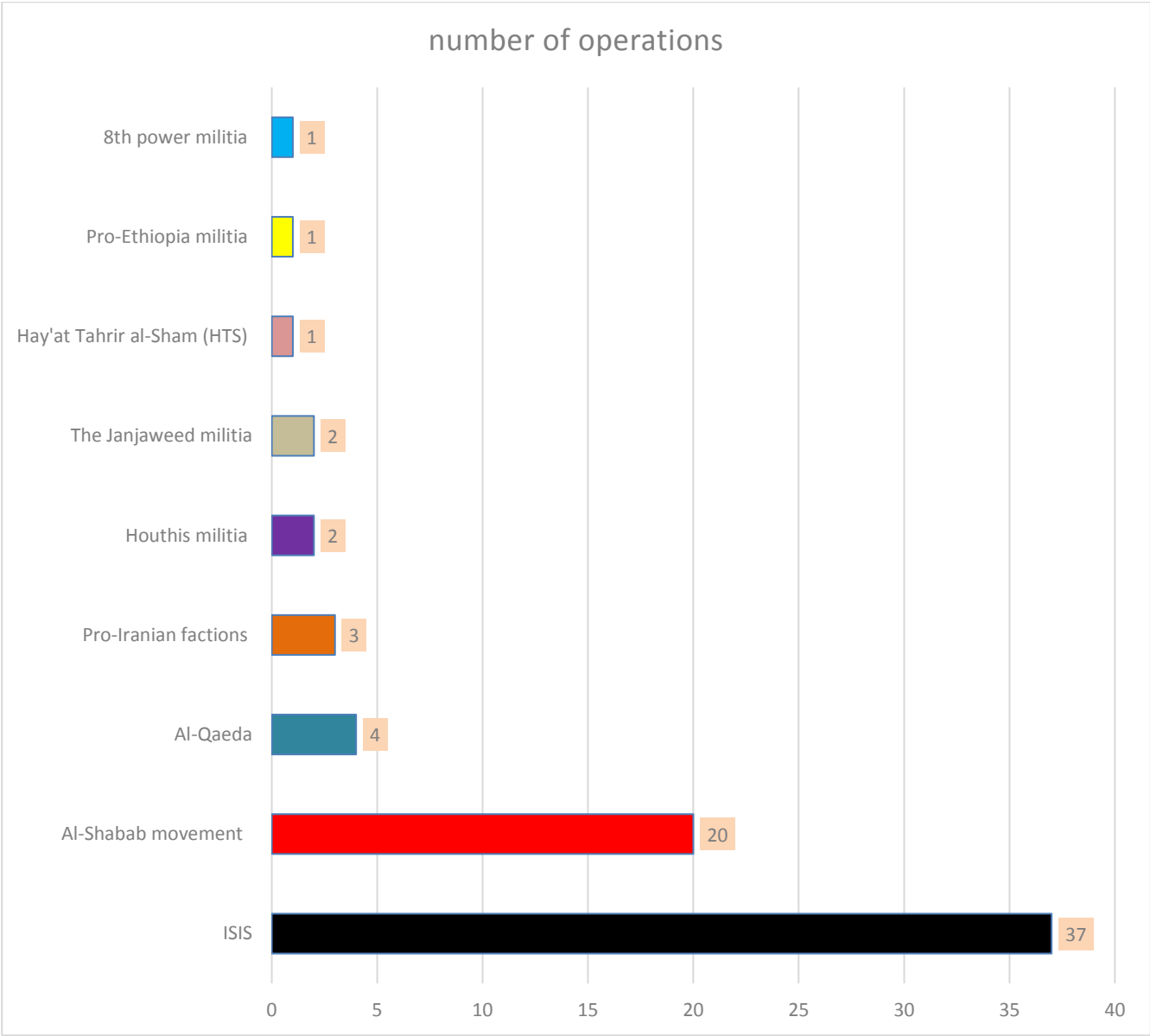


Figure 3

Terrorism increases its geographical presence in certain areas in the Arab region. The Levant region, which includes five Arab countries, recorded the highest number of terrorist operations in the second quarter of 2022, with 83 terrorist operations, which is 67% of the total terrorist operations in the second quarter of 2022. However, these operations occurred in only two of the countries of the Levant, namely Iraq and Syria, while Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine did not record terrorist operations. The Horn of Africa region

recorded 20 terrorist attacks, which we suspect is 16% of the total terrorist operations, all of which took place in Somalia and were carried out by Al-Shabab in Somalia.

The Maghreb and North Africa region recorded 12 terrorist attacks; half of these terrorist operations were carried out in Sudan. The Arab Gulf region was the least geographical area recording terrorist operations in the Arab region. Only eight terrorist attacks took place in Yemen, which the index ranks among the countries in the Arab Gulf region. None of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries recorded any terrorist operations on their soil during the reporting period. The Researchers in Maat attributed this to the extension of the armistice between the Houthis and the Presidential Council in Yemen, the intensification of efforts to combat terrorism in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the continuation of exchanging the best experiences and good practices between them.

The report concluded with a set of recommendations, the most important of which are:

- Strengthening the principles of peaceful dialogue for the union of the warring tribes in Sudan, especially in Darfur, and taking the necessary measures to ensure that new civil wars do not occur in which civilians and soldiers will be victims.
- Strengthening intelligence cooperation between Arab countries and external powers to take proactive steps to reduce the occurrence of terrorist attacks;
- Imposing strict international control over the international funding of terrorist groups so that they are prevented from implementing their subversive plans;
- Imposing strict international control over the movement of weapons and equipment used by these terrorist organizations in carrying out their terrorist acts against civilians and military personnel in Arab countries;
- Promoting religious tolerance and combating hate speech; investing in programs dedicated to women's rights and religious minorities, and providing social services to deserving groups. All of these recommendations shall reduce the conditions that promote terrorism;
- Expanding the conduct of scientific and academic studies that identify the causes of extremism and terrorism, apply their results on the ground, revise educational curricula, and work on developing tools to monitor hate speech in Arab countries;

- Participating in global forums to combat terrorism in a way that allows the exchange of expertise, information, and good experiences and in a manner that enhances the ability of countries to curb terrorism;
- Requesting support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in capacity building on financial investigations;
- Strengthening the judicial system in Arab conflict areas to combat the spread of impunity and strengthen the rule of law.