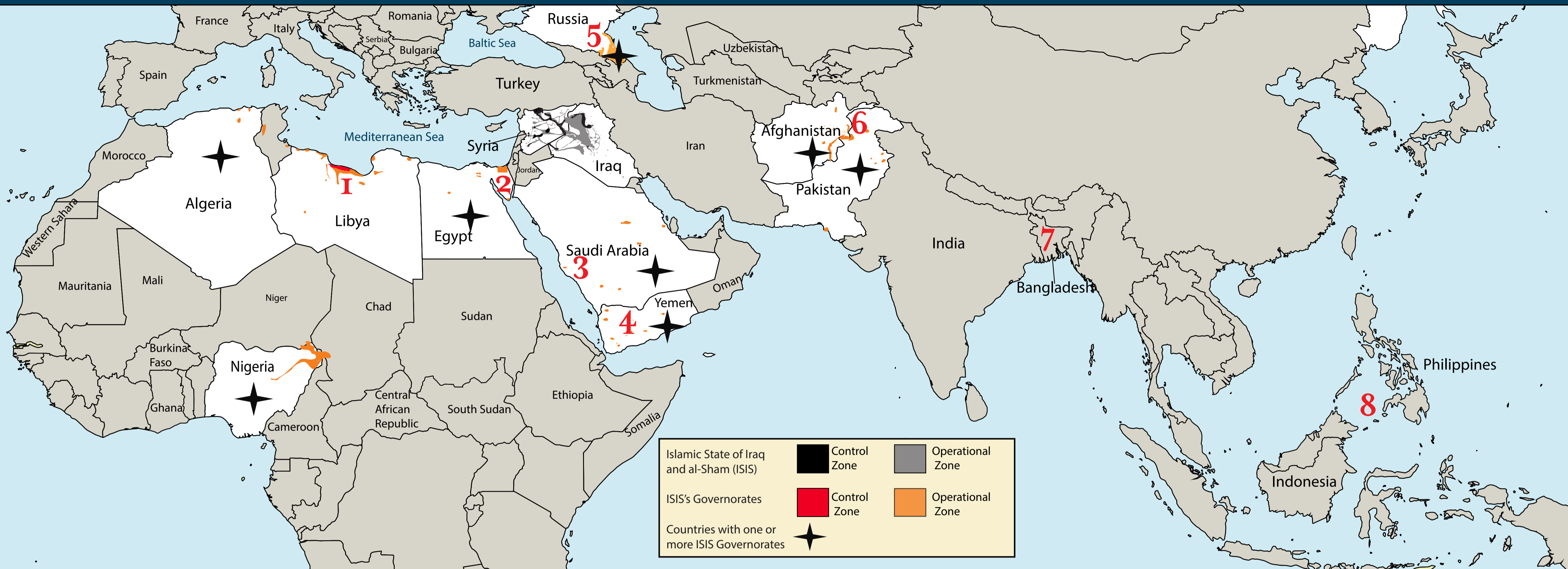


ISIS's Regional Campaign: May 2016



- 1) Libyan forces advanced against ISIS's stronghold of Sirte from the east and west, taking control of Ben Jawad and entering al Nawfaliyah, both east of Sirte, on May 30, 2016, and reaching the Gulf Power Station west of Sirte on May 29, 2016. It is unlikely ISIS will cede control of its only urban control center outside Iraq and Syria without significant resistance, including a launch of spectacular attacks against security forces.
- 2) ISIS's Wilayat Sinai claimed multiple explosive attacks against Egyptian security forces in mid-May, including one possible house-borne improvised explosive device (HBIED). The Egyptian military renewed its "Martyr's Right" campaign in North Sinai to combat ISIS's Wilayat Sinai on May 25, 2016. ISIS also claimed an armed attack on security forces in mainland Egypt in Helwan, Cairo as part of the "Invasion of Sheikh Abu Ali an-Anbari" campaign on May 8, 2016. Fiji withdrew 65 of its over 300 MFO peacekeepers and closed five additional remote bases in late May. ISIS continues to pose a threat to U.S. forces in the MFO base in Northern Sinai as they accelerate activities in before Ramadan.
- 3) Possible ISIS militants attacked security forces east of Mecca on May 8, 2016 following a thwarted ISIS attack south of Mecca on May 5, 2016. ISIS is likely preparing to launch attacks in Mecca during Ramadan and is seeking to establish cells with explosive capabilities in the area, as shown by explosive material found in raids following the May 8 attack.
- 4) ISIS's Wilayat Hadramawt detonated a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (SVBIED) in al Mukalla, Hadramawt governorate, Yemen on May 12, 2016. A separate ISIS Wilayat Hadramawt militant detonated a suicide vest (SVEST) in al Mukalla, Hadramawt as part of ISIS's "Invasion of Sheikh Abu Ali al Anbari" campaign on May 15, 2016. ISIS will likely continue to conduct operations in Mukalla throughout Ramadan in order to exacerbate sectarian conflict in the region and create opportunities to expand operations.
- 5) Russian security forces killed five and arrested up to 12 suspected ISIS militants in separate raids in Ingushetia, Russia from May 21-24. Two Tajik citizens accused of recruiting for ISIS were also detained in St. Petersburg, Russia on May 23, 2016. ISIS's Wilayat Qawqaz previously launched explosive attacks in Dagestan in February and March 2016, and these arrests indicate it may be preparing cells to launch attacks in neighboring Ingushetia during Ramadan.
- 6) ISIS's Wilayat Khorasan claimed it detonated two IEDs in Mathrah area, Peshawar, Pakistan on May 18, 2016, its first IED claim in Pakistan in 2016. Separately, a small group of Tajik fighters pledged allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi under Wilayat Khorasan in an unknown location on May 26, 2016. ISIS militants may increase attacks in Pakistan during Ramadan in order to push its influence into neighboring non-Muslim lands.
- 7) ISIS-linked 'Amaq News Agency claimed ISIS militants assassinated a Hindu businessman in Gaibandha District, northern Bangladesh on May 25, 2016 and attacked a Christian doctor in Kushtia District, western Bangladesh on May 20, 2016. ISIS's capabilities in Bangladesh are likely limited to individual assassinations, but ISIS will likely declare a wilayat in Bangladesh during Ramadan.
- 8) ISIS claimed its first IED attack in the Philippines against Philippine forces on Basilan Island on May 20, 2016. ISIS is likely preparing to declare a wilayat in the Philippines during Ramadan comprised of local pro-ISIS groups that have continued to clash with Philippine forces in late May.

ISIS continued to set conditions for Ramadan by launching attacks within and along the periphery of the Muslim world in order to foster regional disorder and push the boundaries of its caliphate contiguous to non-Muslim lands. The group is expanding its footprint to the edges of non-Muslim lands, as shown by arrests in Ingushetia, Russia and escalating attacks in majority-Muslim areas in Bangladesh and the Philippines and in Pakistan. ISIS is likely preparing to launch new affiliates in Bangladesh and the Philippines during the holy month of Ramadan, which begins on June 6. ISIS is also continuing its campaign to weaken regional power centers, as shown by an attack in the Egyptian capital and a thwarted attack in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, indicating ISIS may be planning to attack Mecca during Ramadan. ISIS continued operation "The Invasion of Abu Ali an-Anbari," declared on April 30, 2016, by claiming attacks in Iraq, Libya, Yemen, and Egypt, indicating the ability to synchronize a single campaign across multiple wilayats before Ramadan. The group demonstrated its resiliency in its core terrain despite anti-ISIS offensives through continued attacks around Baghdad, Iraq and even launching the new Wilayat Sahel in Syria on May 23, 2016.

This map draws upon sourcing and analysis provided by our partners at the Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute.