

Terrorism's bloody fingerprints

No region was spared this year, as ISIS operatives and supporters carried out attacks around the world. Lim Yan Liang outlines 10 incidents that stood out:

Jan 12 Blue Mosque, Istanbul

Barely a year after a suicide bomber killed a police officer in the Sultanahmet district, another bombing there claimed the lives of 13 tourists. Two months later, a blast at nearby Istiklal Avenue, a popular shopping street, claimed another four lives.

Attack: Suicide bomb
Dead: 13 tourists



Paramedics removing bodies after the blast near the Blue Mosque in the Sultanahmet district of central Istanbul on Jan 12.



The Blue Mosque, which was built between 1606 and 1616, is popular with tourists but is also an actively used mosque.

March 22 Brussels airport and train station

Attack: Three suicide bombs
Dead: 32
Injured: More than 300

Three coordinated attacks were carried out by members of the terror cell responsible for the November 2015 Paris attacks. Carrying nail bombs packed in large suitcases, two suicide bombers struck at the airport's check-in area. Over an hour later, another bomb was detonated onboard a train.



June 12 Orlando nightclub

Attack: Lone gunman
Dead: 49
Injured: 53

Armed with a rifle and a pistol, a gunman killed 49 people and injured 53 others in a raid on a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The attacker told a police operator that the shooting was revenge for the US' killing of an ISIS leader. It was the deadliest terror strike in the US since the Sept 11 attacks in 2001.

June 28 Istanbul airport

Attack: Gunmen, suicide attack
Dead: 42
Injured: More than 230

Three gunmen armed with automatic weapons and explosives staged a simultaneous attack at the international terminal of Ataturk airport. After firing at police officers and travellers, two of the attackers managed to detonate their suicide belts. A third blast was set off in the carpark.



June 28 Puchong, Selangor

Attack: Grenade attack
Injured: Eight

A grenade lobbed into a bar in Puchong, Selangor, injured eight patrons. The police said the perpetrators had received direct instructions from a known Malaysian ISIS fighter to carry out attacks in Malaysia. It was ISIS' first successful attack in the country.

July 1 Dhaka cafe

Attack: Gunmen with explosives
Dead: 24, including two police officers
Injured: More than 50

In Bangladesh's worst terror attack, five militants wielding bombs, rifles and a sword stormed a bakery in an upscale neighbourhood in Dhaka and took dozens of customers hostage in a stand-off that lasted for more than 11 hours. A rescue operation led by Bangladeshi commandos managed to rescue 13 hostages, but the attack and firefight left 22 civilians and two police officers dead and more than 50 others injured.

July 3 Baghdad

Attack: Suicide bomb, roadside bomb
Dead: More than 340
Injured: 246

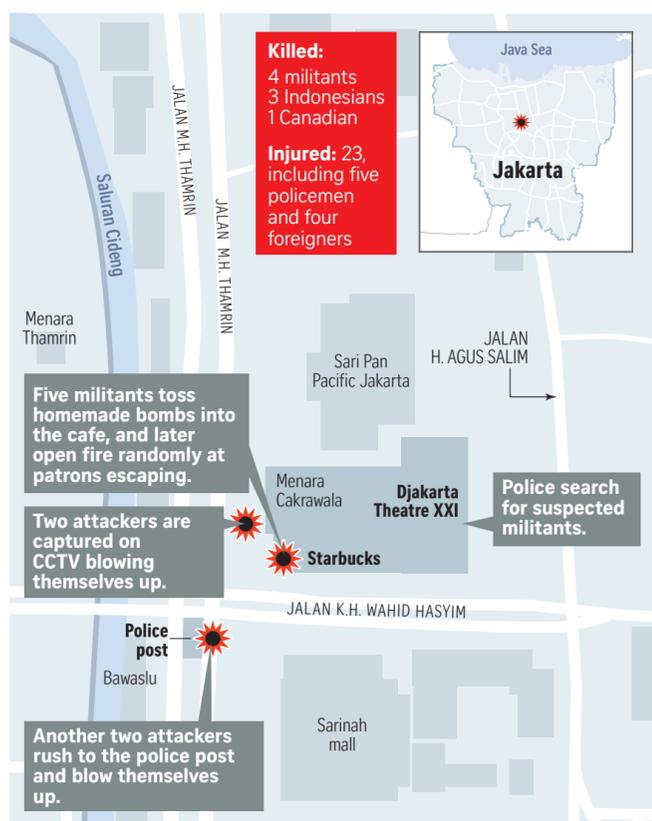


An ISIS militant detonated a suicide truck bomb in a Baghdad shopping district filled with Ramadan shoppers, killing more than 300 people. ISIS had called on its supporters to intensify attacks during the month-long Ramadan celebrations. A second roadside bomb in the capital killed at least five people.

Jan 14 Central Jakarta

Attack: Multiple explosions
Dead: Eight, including four attackers
Injured: 23

Explosions rocked a traffic police post at a major intersection in the city, and Sarina mall, a shopping centre near a United Nations office. Gunmen later fired into a crowd and took hostages.



Killed:
4 militants
3 Indonesians
1 Canadian

Injured: 23, including five policemen and four foreigners

Five militants toss homemade bombs into the cafe, and later open fire randomly at patrons escaping.

Two attackers are captured on CCTV blowing themselves up.

Another two attackers rush to the police post and blow themselves up.

Police search for suspected militants.



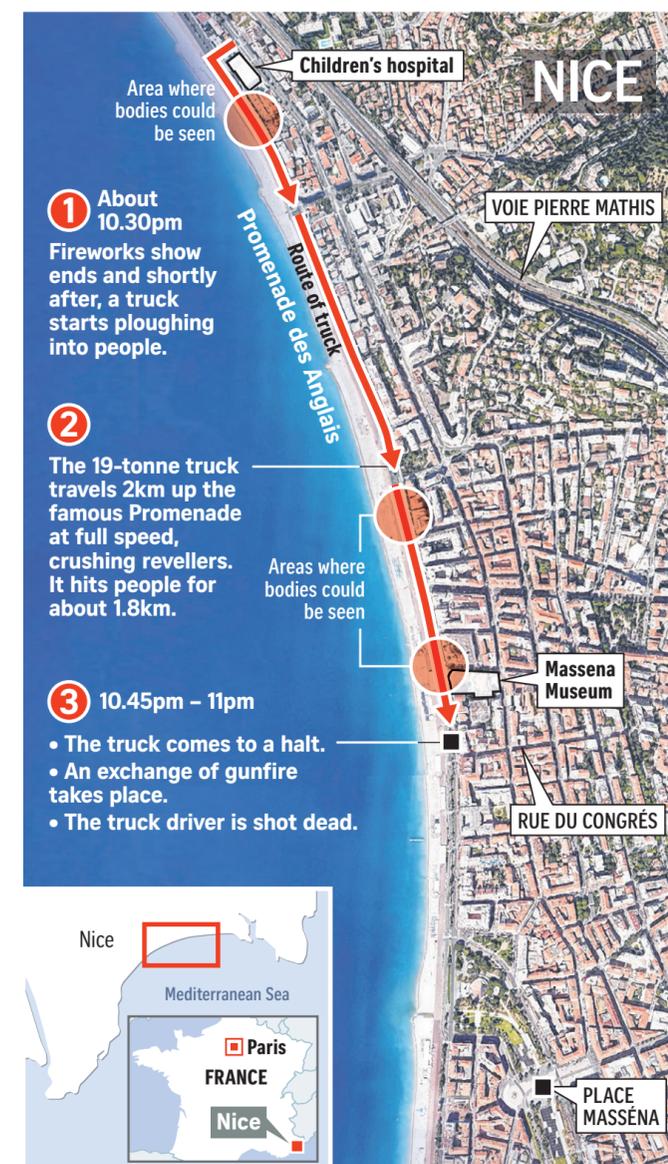
July 14 Nice

Attack: Truck attack
Dead: 86
Injured: 434

Using a 19-tonne cargo truck as a weapon, an attacker broke through police barriers and drove onto a boulevard that had been pedestrianised for Bastille Day celebrations. There, he rammed into crowds that had gathered to catch fireworks along the waterfront. By the time security forces stopped him, he had mowed down 86 people and injured 434 others.



People gathered at a memorial for the victims of the fatal truck attack on the Promenade des Anglais after a national tribute that was held in October.



1 About 10.30pm
Fireworks show ends and shortly after, a truck starts ploughing into people.

2 The 19-tonne truck travels 2km up the famous Promenade at full speed, crushing revellers. It hits people for about 1.8km.

3 10.45pm - 11pm
• The truck comes to a halt.
• An exchange of gunfire takes place.
• The truck driver is shot dead.

Aug 5 Plot on Marina Bay foiled

Attack: Rocket attack

Six terror suspects linked to an Indonesian ISIS militant fighting in Syria were arrested by the Batam authorities for plotting to attack Singapore. The men belonged to a cell that had been planning a rocket attack on Marina Bay.