



Quick Look Report



COUNTER IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

www.ciedcoe.org / info@ciedcoe.org

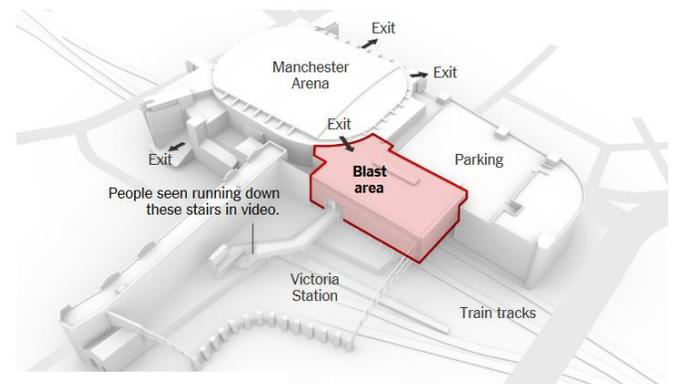
Suicide attack in Manchester

Event Date: 22 May 2017

Report Date: 25 May 2017

1) Key Facts:

1. May 22, 22:33h.
2. Explosion in the Manchester Arena Stadium after a concert of Ariana Grande.
3. Main attendance of children and teenagers in.
4. 22 killed and 59 wounded.
5. The suspect: Salman Ramadan Abedi, 22 years old. British from a Libyan background.
6. Daesh claimed responsibility for the attack.
7. 8 people arrested.



The New York Times



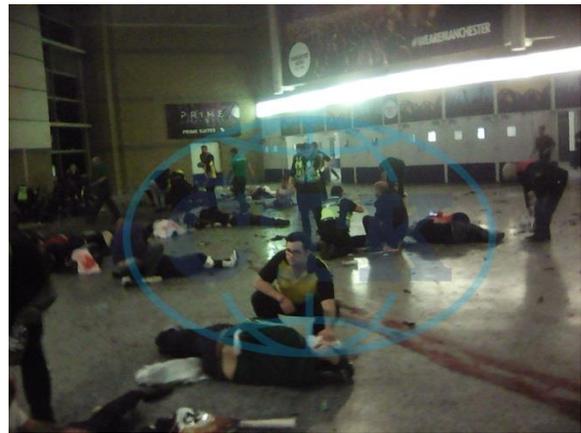
Google Maps

25 May 2017

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

2) Background and other related events

1. This terrorist attack is the worst in the UK since the London bombings on July 2005, where there were 52 killed.
2. The attack against soft targets and young people have been promoted by Daesh in different publications and messages since 2016.



The New York Times

3) Description:

On Monday, May 22, 22:33h, an explosion in foyer of the Manchester Arena at Ariana Grande concert was announced to Manchester Police.

Thousands of young fans and their families were filing out of Europe's largest indoor arena when the suicide terrorist activated the IED. Victims described seeing smoke and being thrown across the floor by the blast.

At least 22 people killed and another 59 injured.

The police stated that attack was carried out by one person (male, 22 years old Salman Abedi, who died

during the attack) and acting as part of a network. In relation to this, some arrests were conducted and the total number of men in custody takes eight after a series of raids across Manchester, Wigan and Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Also the father and brother of suicide bomber Salman Abedi were arrested in Libya.

Salman Abedi was born and raised in the United Kingdom, according to Prime Minister Theresa May, but was of Libyan descent.

Open sources mention Abedi's father returned to Libya at the time of the revolution in 2011, while his mother

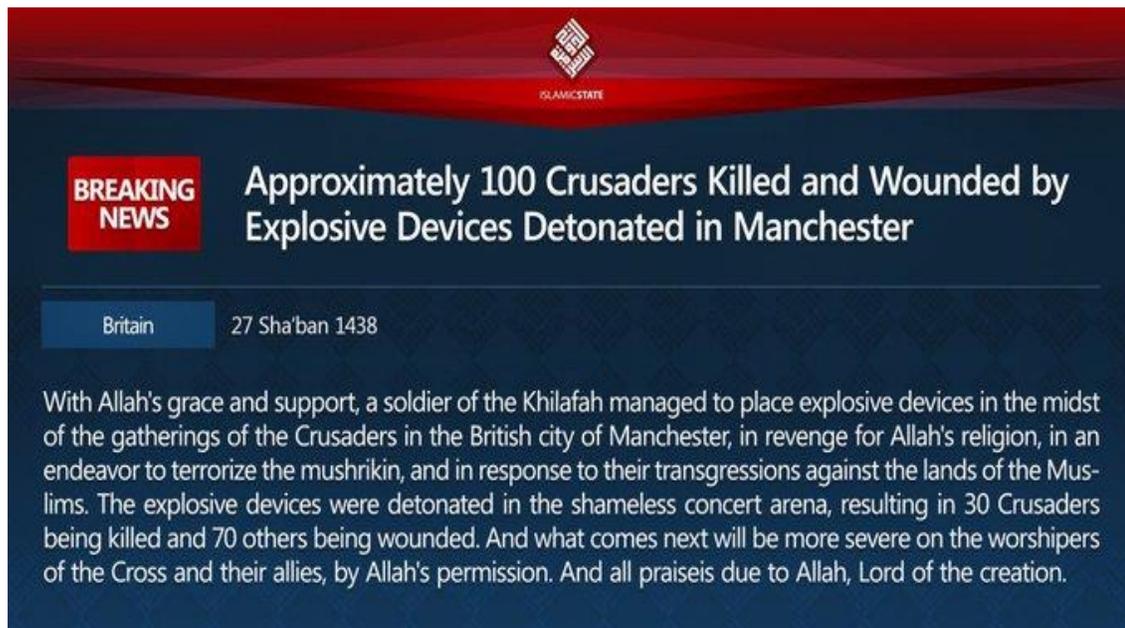
25 May 2017

stayed in England to care for the children. She went back to Libya in the past few months.

Abedi was a student at the University of Salford where he studied business and management in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Abedi resided in South Manchester.

According to open sources the Daesh issued a statement after the attack claiming it had been carried out by one of its members.



<https://blogs.spectator.co.uk>

4) Assessment:

Attacks on soft targets, especially children and young people, have been promoted by Daesh since last year.

Also, Jihadist publications mention to use any mean to attack western countries. The attacks in Europe during the last months, Paris, St.

Petersburg, Stockholm, etc. show that Jihadist terrorists use any means they have available to commit an attack making difficult to establish a clear pattern.

They will use terrorist cells when possible because this provide more

25 May 2017

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

capabilities and make possible commit complex attacks or use more sophisticated devices increasing the number of victims and the strategic effect of their attack. Lone actors will be an effective way to act when the possibility of establishing the aforementioned cell does not exist due to the law enforcement pressure.

Daesh will promote change on their TTPs when needed. Difference on the moment of the attack from Paris attacks to Manchester's one shows it, choosing the moment of people leaving the event than trying to enter on it and face to security checkings.

5) Other information:

Following information operations conducted by Daesh during last months, with the specific aim of inspire attacks similar to last one in Manchester, e.g.

1. Daesh video “We Will Surely Guide Them To Our Ways” (17 MAY 2017)

It was trying to inspire attacks “*The disbelievers attacked us, so attack them just like they have done to us, the same way they struck us and killed our women **and children**, never have mercy on them, kill them wherever you find them*”;

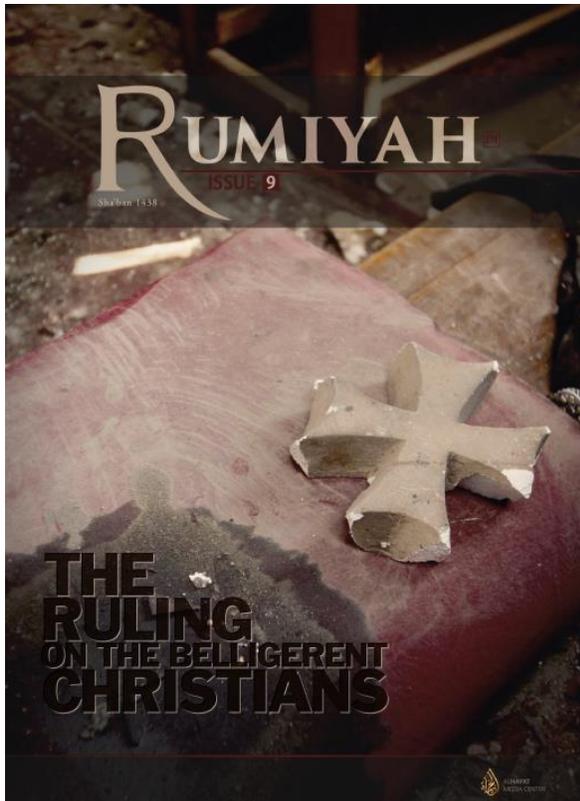
belligerent Christians who are killed unintentionally, their blood is waste— just like the blood of the combatants – because their blood is not protected since they neither embraced Islam nor do they have a covenant..” (Article “The Ruling on the Belligerent Christians”).

2. RUMIYAH #9 (03 MAY 2017)

It recommends “...**concert halls**...” as “...**ideal target locations**...” for attacks (Article “Just Terror Tactics. Hostage Taking”);

It points children as targets “*With regard to those of the non-combatant women **and children** from among the*

25 May 2017



3. Daesh official claim of Egypt attacks (09 APR 2017)

It was threatening “Crusaders” children *“Let the Crusaders and their henchmen among the apostates know that the bill between us and them is very large and they will pay it with **bloody from their children as rivers**, Allah permitting. Wait, for we are waiting with you”.*

4. RUMIYAH #5 (JAN 2017)

It indicates civilian masses as targets, including children *“...one should not avoid **targeting gatherings of the kuffar**—whether military or civilian—in which kafir [infidel] women and **children** outnumber the kafir men.*

Rather, the mujahid must strive his utmost to do whatever is permissibly possible to further Allah’s cause, irrespective of the collateral carnage produced thereby amid the kafir masses.” (Article “Collateral Carnage”).

5. First speech from new Daesh spokesman Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir (DEC 2016)

Called for attacks where victims do not expect *“So attack them in their homes, markets, roads, and **clubs** from where they do not expect. Ignite the land beneath their feet, and make unclear the clarity of their skies, so that they will be preoccupied with themselves. Redouble your efforts and intensify your operations...”*

6. RUMIYAH #1 (SEP 2016)

It points youngsters as targets *“Muslims currently living in Dar al-Kufr must be reminded that the blood of the disbelievers is halal, and killing them is a form of worship to Allah, the Lord, King, and God of mankind. This includes the businessman riding to work in a taxicab, **the young adults** (post-pubescent “children”) engaged in sports activities in the park, and the old man waiting in line to buy a sandwich”* (Article “The Kafir’s [Unbelievers’] Blood is Halal [Legitimate] for You, so Shed It.”).

25 May 2017

7. Daesh video “Deter the Enemy from Harming Your State” (AUG 2016)

It talks about killing enemy children “O my brother by Allah, these criminals, whenever they come here to

our lands, they intentionally bomb the Muslim public, so we must punish them likewise. We destroy as they destroyed. We terrify as they terrified. We scare as they scared. We make widows as they made widows. We make orphans as they made orphans”.

6) Open sources:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/may/23/manchester-arena-attack-what-we-know-so-far>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3625751/manchester-arena-suicide-bombing-isis-celebrations-terror-attack-threat/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/live/2017/may/22/manchester-arena-ariana-grande-concert-explosion-england>

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/05/22/police-report-deaths-following-apparent-blast-at-pop-concert-in-manchester/>

<http://www.manchester-arena.com/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-manchester-40007967>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-40019135>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

The content of this Report has been extracted from the information gathered from C-IED CoE collaborators and open sources. The CoE does not accept any responsibility for use of the information made by those who have obtained it from this Report.

The Report should not be regarded as an official NATO Document.

25 May 2017

NATO UNCLASSIFIED